BOOK REVIEW


The first Texas A&M band in 1884 consisted of thirteen cadets and a band master. In 1994 the Aggie band marched 370 strong during half time shows at football games. This book does an excellent job of telling the story of how an agricultural and mechanical college in Texas gave birth to a military marching band that has set the standards for such music organizations throughout the world. If that sounds like I am an Aggie, you are right, but if you think I am exaggerating, you need to read this book, or better yet see and hear them yourself. It is a story all Texans should know and be proud of.

As a member of the 5000-plus man Corps of Cadets (from 1946 through 1951) I marched to the cadence of the Aggie Band to the mess hall (three times a day), into the Kyle Field stadium, at formal Corps reviews, and Corps parades in the major Texas cities. But in this book I learned things about this unusual music organization that I did not know: like the fact that the last three bandmasters (for that twenty-three year period) were hand picked by their predecessors only after the retiring man was convinced that the tradition of excellence would be continued by the new bandmaster. And like the fact that the arrangement of the Star Spangled Banner done by Lt. Col. Adams will never be changed. If you have heard it, you know why. Texans in general and A&M people in particular will be gratified to read of the accolades given the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band by band music authorities from all parts of the world.

The story is presented chronologically in five chapters;
1. The Early Bandmasters; 1894-1924
2. The Tradition Begins, Lt. Col. Dunn; 1924-1946
5. The Legend Continues, Lt. Col. Tolar; 1989-Present

The authors have included over 100 color and black-white photos and appendices which lists all bandmasters, drum majors, and individual band members for over a hundred years!

This is a story of a happening in which something must have been done right – by a lot of people – consistently – over a 110 year period of history.

H.J. Coffman
Arlington, Texas

In the more than two decades since the Sharpstown scandal, Texans have been captivated by the fall from prominence and power of Houston developer Frank Sharp; the destruction of numerous influential and fast-rising politicians who were entangled in the web of bribery and special favors also has fascinated the public. In a short, never-boring, multi-faceted book, biographer and *Houston Post* sports columnist Mickey Herskowitz recounts the interesting and convoluted tale of Texas corruption.

*Sharpstown Revisited* can be divided into three sections – with Herskowitz having varying success in each. The first is a biography of Frank Sharp, who is portrayed as an honest developer who becomes incredibly wealthy through hard work and insightful planning. An *apologia* for the builder and banker, the book depicts Sharp as the tragic figure of the scandal. The middle section addresses the actual events surrounding stock manipulations as well as the legislators, such as Speaker of the House Gus Mutscher, who peddled their influence for profit. Because of the aforementioned bias, this segment appears incomplete; it minimizes Sharp's role while blaming his underlings, the Republicans, and even the death of his good friend, Congressman Albert Thomas, for Sharp's failings.

The final portion concludes with reminiscences of participants, from Father Michael Kennelly (founder of Strake Jesuit school) to members of the "Dirty Thirty," the state representatives who helped expose many of the shenanigans occurring in the legislature. Although it rambles at times, this is the best section.

While a captivating story told with the usual writing flair of Herskowitz, *Sharpstown Revisited* suffers from portraying the downfall of Frank Sharp as the real tragedy of the scandal.

Eddie Weller
San Jacinto College South

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Kathryn Turner Carter in *Stagecoach Inns of Texas* provides a
much-needed account of the importance of stagecoach inns in early Texas history. In any study of history, it is tempting to focus on the dramatic events or the equally dramatic personalities behind the events. Carter, however, focuses on the mundane logistics of how Texas was settled. She provides detailed information concerning the establishment of stagecoach routes. Carter describes the routes that were surveyed and cleared through the Texas wilderness to connect the territories. She describes the various coaches and relates wonderful anecdotes from typical journeys for which a passenger would pay the more expensive "flood" rate so that one would not have to get out and push when the going got tough. Carter also tells about some of the people who established these early routes, most notably John Butterfield.

Readers of the *East Texas Historical Journal* will be most interested in the sections of the book which deal with inns particular to our "neck of the woods." The Halfway House, the inn on the route of *El Camino Real* between San Augustine and Nacogdoches, is discussed on pages 90-93. Many notable Texans stayed here, including General Sam Houston, Thomas J. Rusk, and James Pinkney Henderson. The Halfway House is two-storied with a kitchen and dining room on one side and two bedrooms on the other. More bedrooms are upstairs. James Johnson, twice mayor of San Augustine, and Samuel Martin Flournoy, a Chireno settler from Mississippi, are credited with building the inn. The Chireno Historical Society purchased the inn in 1988 and is in the process of restoring it near, but not on, its original site.

Another important East Texas inn is the Excelsior House in Jefferson, Texas. Many notable Texans stayed there, including recent figures such as Lady Bird Johnson and Governors Price Daniel, John Connally, and Preston Smith. The Excelsior House has less of a rustic look than that of the Halfway House. Its architecture is influenced by that of New Orleans, which is evident in the balcony with iron grillwork. The Excelsior House was also the center for Jefferson's annual local Mardi Gras celebration—another New Orleans influence. Marshall is also home to two inns—the Capitol Hotel and Henderson Stagecoach Inn.

Carter does an excellent job of placing the inns within their proper historical context. Her research is thorough and is a valuable addition to the growing body of Texas research. We are lucky to have a book which addresses the role played by the stagecoach inns in Texas history, especially since they helped solve the logistical problems of connecting territories in a vast and varied state like Texas.

Alton Holt
Chireno, Texas

There are two kinds of bed-and-breakfast guides. One gets its information from bed-and-breakfast owners who pay a fee to be included and provide their own description of services rendered and amenities provided. The other—and much more desirable—is compiled by authors who have either stayed overnight or at least visited the B&Bs about which they write. Texas Bed and Breakfasts, A Texas Monthly guide book, is of the second type. That alone recommends it.

This third edition is dedicated to one of the authors, Ann Ruff, who died shortly before the book was published. Ruff had operated a B&B at one time, so she knew, and apparently taught her co-authors, the questions to ask and the things to look for in a good B&B. From first to third edition, the number of B&Bs in Texas mushroomed, so the women picked among them all to include only the ones they considered the best. One of their major demands was that guests have a chance to meet their hosts. They were right. People who stay in B&Bs usually are looking for two things: a unique place to lay their head, and someone to introduce them to the community.

Following a list of reservation services and a practical guide of what to expect from a B&B, comes descriptions of homes or small inns which qualify as B&Bs. The book is divided into four geographic areas: Austin and Central Texas; Northeast Texas, including Dallas and Fort Worth; the Panhandle and West Texas; and the South Texas Coast, including Houston.

The authors describe each establishment and offer insight into the lifestyle of the hosts and a brief picture of the community.

There is one big problem with this or any B&B guidebook. It is out of date before it reaches the printer. For example, of the seven Marshall B&Bs listed, three are closed. There are also two new ones in Marshall not yet reviewed or listed. Those kinds of changes occur all over the state. Many B&B hosts tend to look at their innkeeping as a sideline to their regular occupation. Marriage, divorce, or a change in occupation might cause them to close their establishment. For the most up-to-date information about B&Bs, the best bet is to call the local Chamber of Commerce in the traveler’s destination. But to learn more about accommodations, Texas Bed and Breakfast is the best book available in the state on the subject.

Gail Biel
Marshall, Texas
Decorating Texas: Decorative Painting in the Lone Star State from the 1850s to the 1950s, by Buie Harwood (TCU Press, Box 30776, Fort Worth, TX 76129) 1993. Color/B&W Photographs, Drawings. Appendices. Bibliography. P. 192. $29.95 Paper. $60.00 Cloth.

The architectural phenomenon in Texas of “decorative painting” — that is, painted embellishment of buildings, most often on their interiors — is well documented in this encompassing work. The author concentrates on roughly 100 years of decorative art spanning the middle of the nineteenth to the middle of the twentieth centuries, because that is when the bulk of documentable, historic work occurred. East Texas is well represented in her examples since both settlement and urbanization were highly concentrated in the region during this period. Standouts from East Texas include interiors at the circa 1872 House of the Seasons in Jefferson, and the circa 1946 “dairy scene” painting at Parker Brothers Motor Company in Center.

Throughout eleven years of professional interest the author observed — and assembled others’ observations on — the fascinating results of “stencilling, infill painting, freehand painting, graining [and] marbling” (p. 1). She confined her criteria to surface decoration, mostly interior, but this component of the larger world of art is rich with colors, diversity, origins, and value to understanding history. Artwork observed and interpreted in the book covers floors, ceilings, walls, and canvas in the residential, religious, and “commercial” (her term that unfortunately includes schools, post offices, and other public facilities) buildings. The narrative and illustrated examples progress chronologically through architectural styles from “frontier” (p. 1) to post-World War II Art Deco.

While technical information is provided — examples, to explain color, mixtures, and media; to provide physical dimensions and other data — the author lets narrative history stand on its own, quite comfortable for reading and understanding pertinent historic contexts. A great deal of information is presented on artists, from “itinerant” to “in-state” to “imported,” (p. 6) both amateur and professional. Acknowledgement that transportation systems (mostly railroads) caused the artists and their works to appear where they are shows an excellent contextual appreciation. Credit is clearly given to consumer magazines and mail-order catalogs for many of the trends, styles, and designs represented.

One purpose of the book apparently is to be the inventory of all known examples of Texas decorative painting from the subject century, but the author offers readers instructions for documenting discoveries “in their area” (p. vii). Most examples presented are from preserved historic
buildings, though no maps (where are Cat Spring and Beckville?) or visiting information are provided for readers who wish to examine these works firsthand. Some interesting deviations to extant examples appear: Ernst F. Schuchard's 1930s color reconstructions of apparent exterior painting on the 1768 Mission San Jose church in San Antonio; evidently never-executed lobby murals for the 1927-29 Gulf Building in Houston.

Shortcomings of this work appear to be mostly the publisher's fumbles, including muddy reproduction of the color cover and black-and-white photos inside, many pages not numbered, and failure to cross-reference text to detailed information on some example sites at the end of each chapter. The book features a helpful glossary, appendices, and a bibliography, but no index.

*Decorating Texas* is overall a valuable addition to Texas books on the history and preservation of arts and architecture. Many examples long popular with tourists and historians are covered in detail, plus many sites heretofore obscure or recently discovered by researchers provide an excellent balance for enjoyment and serious reference.

Jim Steely
Texas Historical Commission


The folks who promote historic preservation, especially those of us who practice architectural history, deal constantly with the public mental block of "it ain't historic unless it happened a hundred years ago," or "it ain't historic unless it happened in the nineteenth century." This attitude is distressing when you consider that perhaps ninety percent of our total surviving pre-World War II built environment was constructed roughly between 1900 and 1941. As we face the close of this century, it's refreshing to see this large new volume treat Texas architecture of the first half of the twentieth century as a serious study.

*Architecture in Texas, 1895-1945* is generally a welcome addition to the analysis of Texas architecture, and most readers will enjoy flipping through the vast assembly of example photographs. The author mastered the use of a perspective-correcting lens for excellent results with his own photos. Many images of out-of-state buildings that influenced Texas architecture are placed beside the author's selection to make good stylistic points. But few historic photos are reproduced here,
unfortunately. The text and lessons contained in the book are not for general readers, for whom the style terms “progressive modes” and “academic eclecticism” won’t add to their enthusiasm for a favorite courthouse or library.

East Texas is well represented in this statewide survey, reflecting an unmatched era of prosperity in the region largely due to King Cotton. An excellent example of the many church designs of James Flanders is featured from Pittsburg; the courthouse in Marshall is a key example of this building type; the Tyrrell Library in Beaumont illustrates an unusual conversion of a fine church building; the former post office in Palestine represents the progression of federal buildings in the state; and Paris — whose city center burned completely in 1916 — stands out as a laboratory for architects during the rebuilding of the city, with examples here including storefronts, residences, and the city hall. The ill-fated Nacogdoches County courthouse of about 1910 is mentioned in a footnote as an unfortunate loss.

The author warns the reader early that generally only existing buildings were examined to relate the chronology and development of Texas architecture during the fifty-year period. This was a curious decision given the academic nature of the text. The general reader might not get much out of a discussion of lost buildings, but a scholarly study must use known examples, regardless of their ultimate fate, to establish a chain of development. For instance, the author asserts that the popular Mission Revival style had little influence in Texas until after 1900, a generalization that misses J. Riely Gordon’s important Texas pavilion for the 1893 Chicago world’s fair and other pre-1900 works.

In other areas as well, Texas Architecture, 1895-1945 escaped review with too many dumb mistakes. The National Register of Historic Places is misnamed in the main text, though it served as a substantial reserve of information for the book. The classic confusion of J. Riely Gordon’s mentor W.K. Dobson for W.C. Dodson trips up some of the author’s design analysis. The New Deal’s Public Works Administration (PWA) is cited often, but its role in the overall federal sponsorship of design during the depression is confused and often misleading. The construction dates of the widely emulated Nebraska State Capital are wrong, confusing the chronology of its influence. And Arts-and-Crafts guru Gustav Stickley did not spell his name “Gustave.”

But in summary, this book unlocks the secret that now the first half of the twentieth century is historic. The astonishing and progressive works of Texas architects such as El Paso’s Henry Trost, Dallas’ Lang and Witchell (and their talented designer Charles Barglebaugh), Fort Worth’s Sanguinet and Staats (taken over by Wyatt Hedrick with his
designer Herman Koeppe), San Antonio’s Atlee Ayres and George Willis, and Kansas City’s Louis Curtiss receive long-overdue credit and exposure here. *Texas Architecture, 1895-1945* is like a travelogue of the heretofore obscure but important works of these architects and others, now tucked away in the small towns or neglected back streets of Texas. The direct relationship of many of these buildings to world-class designs of their era is fascinating, often surprising, and offers an excellent perspective on who we are and how our more recent forebears chose to identify themselves.

Jim Steely
Texas Historical Commission


*Texas Forgotten Ports- Vol. II* is the second installment of Keith Guthrie’s trilogy on the subject. This book is a delight to read and a major source of East Texas maritime history. Of particular interest to journal readers are Guthrie’s chapters on the Red River, Jefferson, Caddo Lake, the Brazos River, and Galveston Bay. He also suggests in these chapters how East Texas’ waterways opened this part of the Lone Star State to settlement and economic development.

The book vividly brought to life a by-gone era of smoke-belching steamboats and rough-and-tumble riverports. Dozens of cities and thousands of personal fortunes fell prey to the whimsical ebb and flow of a river. Even the steamboat, the technological innovation that conquered the river, eventually relinquished its economic hegemony to a newer technology – the railroad.

*Texas Forgotten Ports- Vol. II* is a wonderful book. The stories, some almost whimsical in nature, are well written and researched. The book offers the casual student of East Texas hours of enjoyable reading and leaves the professional historian with some intriguing topics to further explore.

Donald Willett
Texas A&M University at Galveston

Kelsey and Dyal bring a beautiful vista of Texas courthouses in all their splendor and majesty alive in this publication. Each county courthouse is not only depicted in a color photograph, but is accompanied by concise notes concerning its history, development, and architectural style. This material is presented in such a compelling manner that the reader wishes to continue reading until the book has been finished completely.

In addition to the pictorial portrayal of these majestic monuments erected in the counties, the book describes the naming of the 254 counties in Texas. This segment contains a synopsis on the variations in the selections of these names. Included in the eclectic criteria were individuals (soldiers, statesman, and scoundrels), forts, rivers, and geographic locations. This nomenclature emphasizes categories such as the Renaissance of Harrison County, the Romanesque Revival of Denton County, the Classical Revival of Henderson County, and the Modern style of Jefferson County.

The Courthouses of Texas provides a single quick reference to one of Texas' most under-explored panoramic vistas of our past as represented in majestic monuments, the county courthouses. This highly recommended work should be on a "must read" list for anyone interested in our colorful and diverse history as well as in these profound legendary structures of Texas democracy.

Albert R. Rambo
Blinn College at Bryan


Baseball fans are captivated by the game's dominant players, home-run sluggers, and strikeout pitchers. The most spectacular flamethrower in baseball history is Nolan Ryan, whose fastball often exceeded 100 miles per hour and who set more than fifty records during a twenty-seven year major league career. Ryan's most notable records were 5,714 strikeouts and seven no-hitters, and equally astounding was his ability to
dominate batters as a power pitcher in his mid-forties (he pitched his seventh no-hitter at the venerable age of forty-four). During the latter seasons of his career, fan interest mounted as impressively as his statistic totals. A native of Alvin, Texas, Ryan spent the first half of his career pitching for the New York Mets and the California Angels, but in 1980 he returned home as a Houston Astro, and in 1989 he became a Texas Ranger, concluding his remarkable tenure in baseball in 1993.

Ryan's extraordinary popularity as a Texas Ranger was observed firsthand by Dr. Nick Trujillo, a specialist in communications studies at Southern Methodist University who, in his undergraduate years, pitched for the University of Southern California, and who, as a sixteen-year-old American Legion pitcher, watched Ryan play for the Angels. Struck by the extravagant public and media reaction to Ryan as a Texas Ranger, Trujillo studied the fabled pitcher as a cultural phenomenon. In *The Meaning of Nolan Ryan*, Trujillo establishes Ryan's superstar credentials through details of his pitching exploits, pointing out his impact in relation to the on-field success of his various teams, as well as his influence on attendance and related profits, especially after becoming a Ranger franchise hero. Trujillo traces the favorable and — especially early in his career — unfavorable media portrayals of Ryan.

On a larger scale, Trujillo analyzes the changing meaning of celebrities and sports heroes in our society, then discusses Ryan as a representation of our cultural ideals (Ryan is even depicted as a "safe sex symbol" in chapter five), and as an appealing commercial icon. Rather than offering a biography of one of America's greatest athletes (Ryan already has produced three autobiographies), Trujillo's book presents a fascinating account of how a sports celebrity is created, and a thought-provoking analysis of the cultural and commercial influences of professional athletes on our sports-obsessed society. *The Meaning of Nolan Ryan* is not just for the sports buff.

Bill O'Neal
Panola Junior College


In this pictorial history Ruthe Winegarten presents a representative sampling of women of varied ethnic and class backgrounds whose lives
and work have made a difference in the progress of Texas “from Indians to astronauts,” including the governor of the state, 1991-1995. Published as Texas Women, A pictorial History: From Indians to Astronauts, the first edition was awarded the T.H. Fehrenbach Award in 1986 for the best ethnic/minority/women’s study by the Texas Historical Commission. The 1993, second edition, is a revised and updated version with a foreword by Mary Beth Rogers, former director of the Texas Women’s History Project.

The book is the type that can grace a coffee table with its numerous photographs and interesting stories of Texas women from all areas of the state. However, it is much more than an eye-appealing pictorial work. It records the achievements of some well-known figures, but includes many more women who generally are unknown and unsung participants in Texas history. The majority of women portrayed frequently played roles which led to better communities and more effective institutions, thus having a civilizing impact upon Texas. The influence of some of the women reached beyond state and national borders as well.

Governor Ann Richards and other Texas Women is a valuable book because it broadens the scope of Texas history, making it more complete by including many persons whose contributions often have been overlooked, downplayed, or simply forgotten. It is also important as a guide to stimulate more research and writing in the field of Texas women’s history.

Marion Holt
Lamar University-Beaumont


Radio nostalgia usually turns up with liberal doses of “The Shadow” and “Fibber McGee and Molly” and other shows which characterize the Golden Era of Broadcasting.

Lynn Woolley has chosen to focus on an era that, while not as nostalgic as the 1930s and 1940s offers a significant insight to Texas radio in the 1950s when the medium underwent a transition that shaped today’s broadcasting.

As a youngster at Temple in the 1950s Woolley studied the techniques of announcing, deejay chatter, comedy, news reporting, writing, and radio commercials. He landed his first announcing job with
Radio Station KYLE in 1967, starting a long romance with radio. During the ensuing years, Woolley witnessed an evolution in radio, including the decline of the AM Top Forty giants, the rise of FM radio, the death of radio news, the onslaught of station consultants who shaped radio's formats, and the government regulation of the broadcasting industry.

As he ticks off the changes in Texas radio in "The Last Great Days of Radio," Woolley offers an interesting collection of personal stories, a good look at the little-known peculiarities of broadcasting, and a long line of colorful announcers, station managers, and newsmen.

In the 1960s and 1970s, radio gave up its claim as a drama and comedy medium and accepted a new role as a source of information and music. Even today, the medium is still evolving, turning away from traditional news and focusing on "talk radio" and music formats for almost every demographic slice imaginable.

Woolley rightfully concludes that radio will continue to change, and may even evolve into a medium of the future, possibly as the only free source of music and information.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas


The author begins with the formation of the Guadalupe Mountains from sedimentary deposits in a tropical sea that covered West Texas millions of years ago, followed by an uplift and subsequent erosion.

There was little settlement in the area by easterners due to the presence of Mescalero Apaches and a shortage of water.

Of the early explorers to this region, only one, John Bartlett, in 1850, referred to the beauty of the mountainous country. In September 1858, the Butterfield Overland Mail route was established with one station at the Pinery near Guadalupe Pass. Its remains still stand.

Following the successful campaign of Lt. Howard Cushing against the Apaches in December 1869, the author discusses the arrival of settlers to the Guadalupe Mountains. Two of the best known are Wallace Pratt, who settled in McKittrick Canyon, and J.C. Hunter, who owned the Guadalupe Mountain Ranch.

In his discussion of wildlife, it is good to note that the author did not
side with the environmentalists when discussing predators. He covered both sides of the issue. He tells tales of hidden treasure in the Guadalupes. None of it has been found.

Albert R. Machel
Nacogdoches, Texas


This book comes from comprehensive research on the consequences of the Voting Rights Act and the explicit effects of the act upon black voter registration, voting patterns, and officeholding in the South. With a data base drawn from more than 1,000 cities in eight Southern states, the study ranges from the early 1970s through the 1980s.

The careful reader can feel the dynamics of a complex socio-political process unfolding in the states’ experience with the Voting Rights Act. A unique interaction develops between efforts to enforce the law and the defense of the status quo by Southern officialdom. One clearly discerns the synergism between the evolving meaning of the Constitution and the clout of the Voting Rights Act. Intense interest group involvement on both sides produces compromises altering the complexion of representative government and the construction of public policy in the South.

Separate chapters dissect developments in: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. The states used poll taxes, literacy tests, the “White primary,” registration and residence laws, and multi-member districts to restrict black political participation. Federal enforcers resorted to administrative supervision of changes in election codes (preclearance), voting registrars, and court rulings to fight noncompliance.

Not subject to the Voting Rights Act until 1975, Texas became a major battleground over enforcement, manifesting a grudging,
involuntary compliance characteristic of all the states subject to the Act. Though it never imposed a literacy test like other Southern states, Texas utilized a poll tax, exclusionary registration laws, gerrymandered/malapportioned election districts, and majority-vote primaries. The Texas chapter is a model of the evolution of Voting Rights Act policy. Through judicial decisions and preclearances by the Justice Department, electoral participation by non-white citizens and a higher incidence of black officeholding expanded. The Texas chapter gives sharp insight into the role of federal courts in sharpening the teeth of the Voting Rights Act.

The authors conclude that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 did broaden the chances of non-white citizens to vote and serve in public office in state governments. The act had sought to do more than erase barriers to black voting; it sought to bring minority groups into the organs of state and local governments. The noted increase in black representation was attributed more to the growth in black-majority election districts than to acceptance by white voters of black candidates. Interestingly, in Texas, the constrictions of poll tax and residence requirements fell most heavily on poor whites. Still, the act truly transformed the basis of the Southern electoral system.

This is a monumental voting-rights policy work. Drawn from an enormous data base, the book greatly clarifies the history of this monumental federal regulatory system; it integrates sociological, political, and demographic factors within a complex, longitudinal research design. Of particular value is the book’s vivid depiction of the consensus-building processes in this crucial facet of representative government in our century.

The book is not recreational reading. Copiously documented, it would be good for courses in political behavior, constitutional law, seminars in civil-rights policies, political history, and the like.

James G. Dickson
Stephen F. Austin State University


A conference was held in November 1990 on the campus of Louisiana State University at Shreveport on the issue of "Greatness on
the United States Supreme Court.” This volume grew out of the conference and is in the same literary genre as Pederson and McLaurin, *The Rating Game in American Politics* and Pederson and Provizer, *Grassroots Constitutionalism: Shreveport, the South, and the Supreme Law of the Land.*

The book reports on the polling of American public law “experts” to create a pantheon of great United States Supreme Court justices. The lead chapter presents results of the first scholarly effort to determine whether different evaluators arrive at the same rankings of justices through a comparable set of criteria.

This latest poll is a blood relative of the highly respected study of Blaustein and Mersky in 1978. The new rank ordering was based on a survey of law school faculty, judges, practicing lawyers, and law school students. The rankings are reported according to each discrete category of respondents, along with a composite ranking by all respondents *en masse.* The unsurprising conclusion is that there is still no consensus on who are the great justices or on the criteria for identifying greatness. The criteria used by respondents cover a wide range; the editors try to uncover what areas of agreement exist.

Except for a unanimous agreement on Chief Justice John Marshall and Oliver Wendell Holmes, the lineup of the top ten varies, with justices shifting up or down or in and out of the rankings from the various correspondents. The book includes a useful reference to all previous major rankings of justices, including a ranking of the great dissenters on the Court.

Subsequent chapters depict biographical sketches of individual justices with references to their major cases and personal attributes that contributed to their high historical rankings. Among the criteria of greatness are such traits as: writing ability, intellectual prowess, impact upon the law and public integrity, impartiality, courage to take unpopular positions, ability to carry a proportionate share of the Court’s work, craftsmanship, and the like.

The biographical sketches and case studies provide insightful views of the judicial process. The chapter entitled “Leadership on the U.S. Supreme Court: Justices Who Have Made a Difference” usefully defines the earmarks of leadership on the Court and the ingredients in the potential for greatness in specific justices. The paragons whose careers are sketched manifested in their work such traits as: clarity of writing; consistency and lasting effects of their principles; influence upon public opinion; skill as consensus builders; and contributions to the legal profession.
On the negative side, some of the chapters are not completely germane to the putative theme of the book. Why include a strange chapter on the roles of Charles Evans Hughes and William Howard Taft in the creation of the permanent Court of International Justice? Such a chapter seems superfluous, since Hughes and Taft are the subject of two of the biographical chapters. Since Taft does not appear consistently on most recent polls of great Supreme Court justices, one might quibble over his extensive treatment in this work at all.

Further, a chapter on "The Reagan Court Appointees" might be said to be gratuitous, although it does illustrate pertinent features of the appointment process and the continuities between the judicial philosophy of some of the most recent appointees and those of the Holmes-Brandeis school of jurisprudence.

This book is a positive reflection of current research into an endlessly fascinating exercise in literary sportsmanship. Americans love their Hall of Famers in any field.

James G. Dickson
Stephen F. Austin State University


This volume is the latest in a series on presidential elections spinning off the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics. Contributing authors participated in a study of local political party activists in the South in 1984, 1988, and 1992.

The 1992 report summarizes the presidential nomination and election processes throughout the South, including key participants, events, electoral strategies, and results in each of the eleven Southern states. The states are divided into the Deep South: Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina, and the Rim South: Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. The 1992 election is reviewed on a state-by-state basis, within the regional framework effectively established by the editors.

Each state appraisal has different authors; some synopses are lengthier than others, with varying amounts of tabular, statistical, and demographic data. Excellent editing maintains uniformity and continuity of style. The title of each state review cleverly reveals the character of the presidential contest in that state; for example: Alabama: No Winners
Significant differences between the 1988 and the 1992 elections are highlighted, for the whole South and on a state-by-state basis. A major focus is upon the altered dynamics in the strategy of Southern party leaders with respect to so-called Super Tuesday. Of particular significance was the absence of certain salient personalities – such as Jesse Jackson – and the absence of big-name opponents for Bill Clinton in the primaries, leaving no viable alternatives to the moderate elements in the Democratic Party, embodied in Clinton and Gore. Super Tuesday worked well for both parties in 1992.

Each of the state chapters follows a similar pattern, while allowing for the often different situations in discrete states. This format included (for both parties), the campaign for nomination (state primaries), the general election campaign (with tactics and game plans), results and analysis of the general election, elections for down-ballot positions in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, state governorships and state legislatures, and a concluding “what it all means” appraisal. This final analysis extrapolates what the election meant for the future of two-party competition in the state.

A concluding chapter asserts that in the 1992 presidential contest, the South was not a vital region. Bill Clinton would have won without a single one of the thirty-nine electoral votes he picked up in the South – shades of Harry Truman. Clinton did succeed in forcing the Bush campaign to expend resources in the South, which they had hoped not to waste. Much of the vote for Clinton-Gore was attributable to the decline in support for Bush’s presidential record. This chapter usefully depicts the paradoxes of the South’s position in the 1992 campaign.

This book provides extensive data on the extent to which the old solid Democratic South has disappeared; tabular references clearly reveal the emerging and strengthening character of two-party competition in the South. The editors have compiled a worthwhile survey of the 1992 presidential contest in the South in a form that is readable, informative, and both of general interest and for readers interested only in their own state. An appealing feature is the balance between purely reportorial and analytical approaches to the subject matter.

James G. Dickson
Stephen F. Austin State University
900 Miles on the Butterfield Trail, by A.C. Greene (University of North Texas Press, P.O. Box 13856, Denton, TX 76203) 1994. Notes. Bibliography. Index. P. 293. $29.95 Hardcover.

Information and books about the Butterfield Trail are plentiful. A.C. Greene demonstrates the value of retelling history one more time, filtering it through a writer's personal perspective by taking to parts of the trail in his car with wife, Judy, armed with all the available information and some new historical evidence about the 2800-mile route that began at the Mississippi River and ended at the Pacific Ocean. The trail becomes a personal journey as he reconstructs time and place, searches the landscape where hover the spirits of those whose destiny was linked with the trail, and searches for his own historical interpretation.

Some of the country re-visited is "personal country" around Abilene where the author grew up. It is at Fort Phantom Hill where Greene tells the reader, "I believe sometimes we don’t really appreciate history until we go where it happened," or that the fort is where "I found history or where history found me."

A.C. Greene has always been a master of words, but in retelling the old stories, reviving and reconstructing well known information, he adds another dimension to his writing. There is a mystic connection between time-past and place-present and a mystic quality in his writing about it. He is not afraid to say that he feels, but in the saying he does not lose anything of the historian's dedication to exactness or clearness. The old, familiar song is the Butterfield Trail, but A.C. Greene writes his own beautiful lyrics.

Joyce Roach
Keller, Texas

East Texas Mill Towns & Ghost Towns, by W.T. Block (Best of East Texas Publishers, P.O. Box 1647, Lufkin, TX 75902) 1994. B&W Photographs. Notes. P. 403. $35.00 Hardcover.

Renewed interest in the East Texas lumber industry of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century has sparked a flurry of recent activity among researchers and scholars. Most notable of these efforts is the East Texas Sawmill Data Base organized by the Texas Forestry Museum. But other than the work of the late Robert S. Maxwell and periodic scholarly interest in the Brotherhood of Timber Workers, the lumber industry and the piney woods region has remained the subject of
nostalgia rather than sustained critical, scholarly analysis. W.T. Block's first of his three-volume anthology of East Texas mill towns and ghost towns does not fill the analytical void, but it offers a critical compilation of information and source material on the region's forgotten sawmill towns.

Block, a retired U.S. postal employee, aims to go beyond providing information on the famous mill towns such as Diboll, Wiergate, and Manning and attempts instead to rescue the smaller mill towns from "historical oblivion" (p. 10). A first chapter describes early lumbering practices in the region before the industrial boom of the 1880s. Subsequent chapters focus on individual counties (Angelina, Chambers, Jefferson, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, and Tyler). Later volumes will include other counties. Each chapter opens with a geographical description followed by a catalog of information about the county's various mills and companies, large and small. This book is meticulously footnoted, and Block demonstrates an impressive eye for detail, piecing together the history of mills, companies, and lumbermen from disparate sources such as newspapers, oral histories, private papers, and trade journals. These strengths make the volume invaluable for anybody researching the region, although some will find the lack of an index a handicap. Block discusses not only the familiar lumber barons but the role independent logging contractors such as B.F. Van Meter played in harvesting the virgin timber stands. We also learn about such obscure places as Howard's Switch, Appleby, and Stryker.

Throughout the book, Block pauses to comment on the impact of deindustrialization. Block quotes vivid scenes of rusting equipment, dilapidated buildings, and acres of cutover land, by-products of "cut-and-run" lumbering techniques. He regrets that the lumber industry so often lined the pockets of bankers and investors outside the region who did little to reinvest in the counties that enriched them. Those practices seldom left little more than ghost towns. Thanks to Block's energetic efforts, we know more about the people who once animated those places.

Steven A. Reich
Northwestern University


The Lone Star State Divided is an extremely readable juvenile book on Texas and Texans in the Civil War. The author seems to have a gift for
weaving history into interesting stories.

After a short introduction on the Civil War and Texas leaving the Union, the author picks up with Ben McCulloch, a famous Texas Ranger who was the commissioned military officer for the Texas Committee on Public Safety, and his men taking over San Antonio. General David Twiggs and his men were allowed to leave but McCullough's men kept $3 million worth of military equipment. Of special interest to the junior high student will be the part about Robert E. Lee riding up to the Read House in San Antonio in the midst of the celebration by McCulloch's men.

A two-page chronology of battles is followed by brief description of the main ones. Tales of Hood's Brigade and Terry's Texas Rangers are included. The dreams of Colonel John Baylor and General Henry Sibley to expand into New Mexico seemed to end with the Battle of Glorieta Pass. Adequate coverage was given to the blockade and battles of the Texas Coast. Students will like the picture of Dick Dowling used as an illustration in telling the story of Sabine Pass.

The book, with a two-page bibliography and an index, might be criticized for omitting the hardships and conditions of those on the home front during the war. But, hey, the author gives us "Rip" Ford and the last battle of the Civil War. What more could Texans want!

The *Lone Star State Divided* should be in all junior and senior high school libraries.

Willie Earl Tindall
San Augustine, Texas


*Life on the Texas Range* is a collection of black-and-white photographs that confirm why Erwin E. Smith is regarded as one of the finest cowboy photographers the United States ever produced. Smith's excellent photography depicts the Western cowboy in his true habitat. Evident in the collection of seventy-nine plates are the vast stretches of open range which the cowboy called home, the cowboy's monotonous lifestyle, some of the methods needed to work with cattle, and other aspects of a cowboy's life which often are lost in today's stereotypical portrayal of cowboys in the "Wild West." Smith believed an accurate account of cowboy life was needed, so he worked on this for the better
part of his life. The one drawback is that more of Smith’s photographs were not included in this work or organized into other books, but, as the material was difficult to organize and expensive to produce, the reader must be resigned to the fact that this is one of the only collections of Erwin E. Smith’s photography.

In the opening text, J. Evetts Haley depicts Smith as a man who was intrigued with the West from the time he was a boy, and this boyhood infatuation was one of the main reasons Smith sought a career in cowboy photography. Unfortunately, financial difficulties prevented him from pursuing this career as much as he desired. The reader, whether a proponent of the New Western History or not, is led to believe that Smith was one of the first advocates of portraying the cowboy in his natural habitat. Since the photographs included are of the best quality and because plates such as those presented may never be produced in a similar manner, one should appreciate the importance of the material covered in this work.

Christopher Spaid
Nacogdoches, Texas


This book, originally written as a series of articles to be published in a journal in New Zealand, provides an interesting and useful view of a number of aspects of life on ranches and communities in Mexico and the Southwest in the 1890s. It is clearly written from an outsider’s point of view, that of the author, a woman whose husband and family moved from Scotland to Australia, then to New Zealand, and then to Mexico, where they lived from June 1891 to the fall of 1893.

The book provides insights into what it was like for foreigners who came to Mexico to begin ranching. It gives interesting descriptions of foreigners traveling into Mexico on trains and then traveling by stagecoaches and wagons through a number of small towns on the way to the Las Rucas Ranch in the State of Coahuila. There were a number of other British and other foreigners ranching in the area when the McKellars arrived. The author describes the relationships between the foreigners, the Mexican ranchers and vaqueros, the Indians, and a number of Negroes living in the area. She gives insights into the
traditional life of the region, including foodways, medicines, the styles of architecture, furniture, and how people lived in this area.

A significant conflict developed between Mexican ranchers and McKellar, who decided to enclose his ranch in a fence. This ultimately led to his being killed, which (along with a developing move toward revolution against the governor of Coahuila) led to the McKellars moving back to New Mexico and finally selling the ranch. Although written from an outsider woman’s point of view, the book provides useful insights into the life on a Mexican ranch in the 1890s. While it does not give the male perspective of what it was like to be a rancher or a cowboy, it does provide useful insights into the work they engaged in and the sense of pride the Mexican vaqueros had in their horsemanship and cattle working skills.

Joe Graham
Texas A&I University


Andres Tijerina relied heavily on primary material from the Bexar Archives, the *actas del congreso de Coahuila y Texas*, Barker’s *The Austin Papers*, and Kimball’s *Laws and Decrees of the State of Coahuila and Texas* to successfully analyze and describe how the Mexican political, legal, military, cultural, governmental, social, educational, and economic systems impacted the Texas frontera. Using a topical approach, the author explained the different Mexican regulations that emerged from Spanish law and how these concepts influenced present-day Texas.

For example, the *municipio* and the *ayuntamiento* became the form of city government. When the Tejano settlements existed in 1821, reference is made to Don Domingo Ramon for establishing Nacogdoches in 1716. The other two principal settlements included the Bexar-Goliad region and the Rio Grande region. Nacogdoches was similar to the other two regions, except that because of its smaller population, it did not obtain a complete *ayuntamiento* until June 1827, when “Samuel Norris was the first constitutional alcalde and president of the first official ayuntamiento” (p. 32).
the author consulted the major works that deal with the different Indian tribes that populated northeastern Mexico and southern Texas. The emphasis on the Tlascalan tribe leaves the reader with the impression that other native tribes were non-existent. Also, the author’s conclusion that the colonization laws of Coahuila y Texas were designed to encourage mestizaje (racial mixing process between Spaniard and Indian) raises many debatable questions.

Nevertheless, Dr. Tijerina’s book is well-written and illustrated with four maps and thirteen tables. It definitely fills the chronological void between Chipman’s Spanish Texas, 1519-1821, and Montejano’s Anglos and Mexicans in the Making of Texas, 1836-1986. This book is highly recommended as a supplemental textbook to any high school and college course on Texas history.

J. Gilberto Quezada
Zapata County Historical Commission


Seldom does the fame or influence of sports figures extend beyond their game, and rarely does it last long after their participation ends. An exception is Darrell Royal, former football coach of the University of Texas Longhorns. In twenty seasons Royal won three national championships and numerous Southwest Conference titles, and the Longhorns were a perennial national power. Almost two decades after his retirement from active coaching, Royal’s record is still the standard by which Texas and Southwest Conference coaches are measured.

Intensely competitive and respected for personal and professional integrity, Royal also is remembered for his charisma and folksy humor. Included in his legacy are many witty sayings, or “Royalisms,” that are part of this story. This blend of successful achievement and compelling personality make him one of the most appealing sports figures in recent memory. Jimmy Banks first issued his biography in 1973 as Royal began to contemplate an end to his coaching career. Banks, an Austin, Texas, journalist, has updated the original by adding a small portion of new material and some photographs from the intervening years. A long-time student of Texas sports and politics, Banks provides a worthwhile look at the early and middle life of a man whose accomplishments and stature, within and outside his profession, have made him a part of Texas

It is no mean achievement to be judged the best out of thousands of political cartoons published annually in the United States and Canada. For the twenty-second year, Charles Brooks has harvested the finest examples of political cartoons – this unique form of political and social commentary – for inclusion in this Annual.

Almost 400 selections from 191 artists are presented in seventeen topical categories. Public policy issues and debates which have dominated other print and electronic media and public forums are arranged graphically for the reader’s scrutiny. Selections span the range of philosophical positions manifested in public debates over these most current of events during the past year.

Issues resolved and unresolved, cussed and discussed, probed and picked – foreign and domestic – are sketched by these talented and perceptive observers of public affairs and societal conflicts. Some issues are treated whimsically; some are drawn in stark, doleful, and realistic shades. Some issues are portrayed as caricatures of personalities and events, with heavy doses of exaggeration for thought-provoking effect. Some lean toward the grotesque to highlight their brooding doomsday scenario, while other artist/observers paint with masterful understatement.

Whatever the style of the individual artist, each panel encompasses a host of significant imperatives facing policy makers in the United States and Canada, with the personal perceptions of each present in varying degrees. Unfolded in declarative sentences, the dynamics encapsulated by these skillful commentators would fill volumes.

Once again, Charles Brooks has managed to show us “the way we were” in a very “readable” format. It’s fun to see if you would have chosen different cartoons for the Pulitzer and other top journalistic prizes. See you next year, Charles.

James G. Dickson
Stephen F. Austin State University

Originally published in 1980, this 1994 revised edition supposedly was “completely reedited and updated.” However, this reader noted very little, if any, material or references later than 1980. This work primarily contains historical sketches of various congregations and denominations gathered from numerous sources that mirror the variegated cultures in Texas. Photographs capture the architecture of early church edifices, whose construction often reflects that of the members’ mother country.

Spanish-Mexican rule permitted only the legal practice of Catholicism until Texas Independence in 1836 ushered in religious freedom. Union church buildings often were shared initially by more than one denomination until separate structures could be erected. From these religious foundations, ministries to the community evolved, providing clinics, hospitals, and schools.

The authors, educators rather than professional historians, have collected much valuable and interesting information. Apparently, a great deal of labor was expended to depict these historic houses of worship accurately. Various language and cultural groups encompassing different denominations are characterized. Additional balance is achieved by including ethnic congregations and structures with unusual features. Church dates appear to be accurate. However, the authors use the incorrect term religion when discussing diverse Christian groups. But Christianity’s many variant expressions embody all groups, ranging from Catholic to Protestant denominations. Therefore, the correct nomenclature should have been sect or denomination. Judaism is the only other religion dealt with throughout this work, although the recent flow of immigrants into Texas probably would justify the inclusion of Islam, other eastern religions, and possibly cults as well.

This reviewer takes one notable exception to the text on page 86; “On July 18, 1847, Dr. Defee immersed eighty people into the Christian Church, or Church of Christ, in Shelby County and welcomed two Baptist ministers in Sabine County, Peter Eldridge and G.W. Slaughter, into the Reformation or Restoration movement.” During seventeen months of research in 1990-91, no hint of evidence uncovered even suggested that either Eldridge or Slaughter were ever associated in any way with the Church of Christ.

Nonetheless, as observed, the overall treatment of Texas houses of
worship is gratifying, which makes this volume a worthwhile addition to the library of both clergy and laymen alike.

Ron Ellison
Beaumont, Texas


Bill Groneman grew up with the heroic image of David Crockett as portrayed in the television series early in the 1950s. It is his aim in this book to perpetuate this view of the legendary figure.

Legends are preserved by tradition alone; they are not supported by documentation. Since Groneman cannot present proof that David Crockett went down swinging at the Alamo, his defense of the legend must rest on attacks on whatever source material that does exist – mainly Jose Enrique de la Pena's With Santa Anna in Texas. According to de la Pena, Crockett and six others surrendered, were taken before Santa Anna, and executed by his order. In researching an article on the death of Crockett, Groneman became aware that the so-called diary was not written while de la Pena was on the campaign, but that it was a memoir written at a later time, with additional information from a variety of sources. Further examination revealed to him that the diary lacked provenance, that it contained premature and erroneous information, that it was similar to another recognized forgery, and that physical evidence, i.e., paper and ink, was questionable. He concludes that the diary is a forgery.

Groneman identifies the forger as John A. Laflin, also known as John A. Lafitte, who claimed kinship to the Gulf Coast pirate Jean Lafitte. Laflin had published The Journal of Jean Lafitte, which Laflin had written himself. Most of the Journal was taken from a novel about Lafitte entitled The Corsair by Madeline Kent, with whom he collaborated before they disagreed.

Groneman cites Charles Hamilton, autograph dealer and handwriting expert. Hamilton states that the handwriting of With Santa Anna in Texas "bears the same characteristic script, slightly modified, that appears in his other fabrications in English, French and Spanish." It is difficult to believe that any forger, no matter how gifted, could produce creditable forgeries in three languages.
Groneman has devoted intense effort to his *Defense of a Legend*. His research includes interviews and the examination of many documents and books. He raises some questions as to the trustworthiness of the de la Pena diary that deserve consideration.

Dan Kilgore  
Corpus Christi, Texas


Samuel Emory Chamberlain, born in 1829 in New Hampshire, was just fifteen years of age when he joined a volunteer regiment in Illinois to fight in the Mexican War. After numerous adventures in Texas and northern Mexico with Zachary Taylor's forces, Chamberlain penned *My Confession: the Recollection of a Rogue*, a manuscript which lay unpublished for more than a century. Then early in 1956 *Life* magazine excerpted three installments from it; later that same year Harper issued the full text, edited by Roger Butterfield, and it was reprinted by the University of Nebraska Press in 1987 with a new foreward by John Eisenhower.

Chamberlain's dramatic firsthand account is especially valuable for its insights into camp life and comments about soldiering in this misunderstood war. However, when Chamberlain's account was published in the 1950s, there was instant controversy about the authenticity of the manuscript; for example, Walter Presscott Webb labeled it a hoax in his review. Since that time, research has satisfied a majority of scholars that Chamberlain did most of the things he claimed and that the manuscript therefore is genuine.

The truly exciting part of the discovery of Chamberlain's manuscript – and what made *Life* willing to excerpt from it – was the discovery in the Old Print Shop in New York City of 147 Chamberlain watercolors about the war. These are the work of a self-taught artist, a primitive, but a study of them provides the viewer with, as the dust jacket of this book accurately says, "upclose views of the battles, marches, atrocities, massacres, seductions, and tall tales of the Mexican War."

The bulk of the more than 160 Chamberlain watercolors in this book came from those discovered at the Old Print Shop (there were two
duplicates among them); this stunning collection subsequently was acquired by the San Jacinto Museum of History, housed in the San Jacinto Monument near Houston. The remainder of the pictures in this book came from other Chamberlain paintings discovered by Professor Goetzmann during his research in writing his introduction and notes; he found eight belonging to a Chamberlain great-granddaughter and thirteen in a collection at Brown University.

Those who buy this volume for the paintings alone are getting good value despite the price; the artwork is reproduced magnificently in this oversize book. And purchasers get a bonus in Professor Goetzmann's thoughtful introduction and notes that accompany the paintings. Everyone interested in the Mexican War is indebted to the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas for a grant which made possible this publication, which is a genuine contribution to Texana and Mexican War literature.

Odie B. Faulk
Professor Emeritus
Northeastern State University


As a seminal work on the South, Cash's Mind has attracted innumerable proponents and critics in the fifty years since its publication in 1940. In an effort to identify what made this work so germane or caustic to observers of the South, Cash's alma mater, Wake Forest University, hosted a symposium to examine Cash's South and his cogent interpretation of Southern culture.

Escott has done a masterful editing job by taking widely disparate essays and combining them into three parts that examine increasingly broader perspectives on the South. In an Afterward, Escott concedes that despite developing important themes, scholars will continue the debate over what constitutes the South and its distinctiveness and why the themes of Cash's book evoke such strong passions. Even though C. Vann Woodward has questioned many of Cash's premises, he explained that the work has no rivals "in influence among laymen and few among professional historians" (244).

The initial focus concerns the origins of Wilbur Cash and his book and the influence on his thought and work. The second part contains essays which bear directly on The Mind of the South and its major
concepts. In the final section, scholars from political science, economics, history, and religion seek to evaluate Cash and *Mind* from the perspective of a South that differs markedly from that experienced by Cash. They also examine the advances of scholarship on the South in the fifty years since Cash's death.

In a work of such dimensions with essays contributed by different scholars, inevitably the work contains some unevenness. Some of the essays are too narrowly focused, while others seek to impose current issues such as gender on the past, which would have been meaningless to Cash, if he even contemplated such ideas at all. However, C. Eric Lincoln's personal perspective on Cash's *Mind of the South* should encourage every observer of the South to read *Mind* once more to determine what place Wilbur J. Cash should occupy in the pantheon of Southern writers who helped delineate many Americans' "Dixie state of mind."

Marshall Scott Legan
Northeast Louisiana University


Restless and colorful, James Bowie liked being on the edge of adventure: speculating in lands, smuggling slaves (together with Jean Lafitte), and joining briefly James Long at Nacogdoches. Bowie differed with the Rapides Parish, Louisiana, sheriff, and after watching a duel on a sandbar near Natchez (1827), was drawn into a battle, wounded by four different attackers, and killed the sheriff with a knife. Because of this duel and some land deals, Bowie left for Texas. He married the daughter of the alcade at San Antonio de Bexar, searched for a silver mine, fought Indians as a Ranger colonel, speculated in lands, and lost his wife and children to an epidemic. Bowie fought at Nacogdoches, at Mission Concepcion, in the Grass Fight, and at the Alamo.

Hopewell was both objective and truthful in using letters, public records, books, and newspapers. His research was substantial, the bibliography solid, the endnotes meticulous. The best passages were about getting legal title to smuggled slaves and for 700,000 acres, and how Bowie got his father-in-law to help establish the mill which earned his citizenship. Contradictory evidence kept Hopewell less definitive at key points. Did Bowie invent the knife or find the silver mines? What
happened at the sandbar duel or in the Indian fights? Confined to a cot at the Alamo by illness, broken hip, and crushed ribs, did Bowie face death like Richard Widmark? His mother said (p. 125) when told about the Alamo, "I'll wager no wounds were found in his back."

Bill Enger
Trinity Valley Community College


A History of Ashton Villa by Kenneth Hafertepe is the fifth volume of the Texas State Historical Association's Popular History Series. The book traces the rise to economic prominence of one of Galveston's early families, that of James Moreau Brown, and describes the history of their residence, the magnificent Ashton Villa.

Ashton Villa, built in 1859, was the first brick residence in Galveston and one of the first buildings in Texas to incorporate an Italianate style. The building remained in the Brown family until 1926 when the Shriners bought the home. The Galveston Historical Foundation acquired the structure in 1970 and maintains it as a museum. The book accurately portrays the history of the building but the author failed to capture the charms, elegance, and spendor most Galvestonians associate with this wonderful building.

Donald Willett
Texas A&M University at Galveston