**BOOK REVIEWS**


One of the great mysteries of North American exploration is the precise route of Coronado after he crossed the Pecos River in May 1541. Morris’ work explores possible answers to this question which has been “shrouded in controversy, mired in deception” (p.26).

He has studied the numerous accounts of explorers as well as generations of followers to present his interpretation of the route of discovery. Besides the contributions of Coronado, the testimonies of much later explorers and developers such as Josiah Gregg, A. W. Whipple, and John Pope are discussed.

The work is not only a focus on Spain’s efforts to locate the fabled Cities of Gold; it also analyzes the early explorers’ attitudes toward the land and its richness in mineral and water wealth as well as in terms of the original inhabitants. The scope concludes with General John Pope’s unsuccessful efforts to bring forth water from the Jurassic tablelands, a spot on the map we know today as Pope’s Wells.

*El Llano Estacado* is not an easy read because much of its vocabulary reflects the author’s knowledge of botany, biology, geology, and linguistics, as well as historical accounts in English, French, and Spanish. Although the average reader may need a dictionary, this in no way diminishes the value of the book. Anyone with even a cursory interest in the history of Texas and the Southwest will appreciate Morris’ command of the language, whether the topic is the “intensification of the ancient meat and robe trade between the plains and the pueblos” (p.157), or the saline taste of the Pecos River water adding “a certain bitterness” (p.303), to a land of little population. Most readers will discover themselves gradually involved in the detective-mystery aspect of Morris’ quest to determine the route of Coronado.

Chuck Parsons
Yorktown, Texas

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Jerry Don Thompson has done it again. He has produced another work that should please scholars and general readers who are interested in Texas history. His latest creation is an informative and succinctly written volume on the South Texas border.
elements that influenced the development of the region. It begins with a narrative description of the physiographical features along the Rio Grande from Del Rio on the fringe of the Chihuahuan Desert to the Gulf Coast near Brownsville. Afterwards, a bevy of topics are chronicled briefly. The text includes the Coahuiltecan Indians, Spanish exploration, border communities, revolutionary activities, the Mexican War, steamboats on the Rio Grande, the Cortina War, the American Civil War, the development of the railroads, the sheep and cattle industry, the emergence of the Rio Grande Valley as the center of the Texas citrus industry, the South Texas oil boom in the 1920s, and the Falcon Dam and Reservoir.

Throughout the volume Thompson weaves accounts of individuals who are identified conspicuously with the area, such as Richard King and Uriah Lott. His craftsmanship, however, is not limited to the luminaries. He brightens his handiwork with comments on persons who are less known, but who, nevertheless, left indelible marks. Among the latter group is Jovita Idar, an educator and organizer of the First Mexican Congress, ostensibly the initial militant Mexican-American feminist social alliance.

The text is enhanced with 162 proficiently captioned images, some never before published. The illustrations, reproduced from public and private holdings, tell a fascinating history of the people and events along the South Texas border.

Although *A Wild and Vivid Land* does not break new historical ground, it does provide a collage of rich and colorful stories and is an excellent introduction to the region.

Charles Spurlin
Victoria College


Perhaps no other part of Texas is so misunderstood, in terms of its nineteenth-century land tenure shifts and the nature of its Anglo-Hispanic interactions, as the “Nueces Strip” – the land lying between the lower Nueces River and the Rio Grande. Misconceptions and outright distortions concerning the brazada country have generally held sway in the historical literature, dating from the time it was designated a “No-Man’s Land” and characterized as a “Wild Horse Desert.” Much of this misinformation, hopefully, will yield to the solid analysis of south Texas society presented in *Tejano Legacy*.

This book by Armando C. Alonzo, who teaches history at Texas A&M University, is a masterful overview of the region’s historical heritage beginning with the settlement of the river villas under colonizer José de Escandón in the mid-eighteenth century. It was from these towns that Spanish ranchers expanded their livestock raising operations north toward the Nueces, in the
process acquiring large grants of land under both Spanish and Mexican titles. It was also in this region that the Spanish influence on ranching was most pronounced and endured the longest, despite recent attempts by a few misguided academicians to downplay the significance of the Hispanic contribution there and elsewhere in Texas.

Alonzo's book should serve as a model for other studies of ranching and land tenure in the Spanish Southwest. He consulted a wide variety of primary sources for his study, including records kept on the federal, state, and county levels. These statistics are presented in thirty-one no-nonsense tables, allowing us to see clearly the forces that determined both the prosperity and the decline of Hispanics as ranchers until 1900. Local records of livestock sales, land transfers, brand registrations, and will probations were also examined, adding considerably to our understanding of how life changed (or stayed the same) for these ranchero families over the decades. The fair and even-handed way in which Alonzo presents his mass of evidence will likely do as much to dispense with the muddled ideas about south Texas as the evidence itself. One gets the feeling that he based his conclusions on the facts uncovered, rather than starting out with a pet theory and then seeking materials that would prove his preconceived notions. Unfortunately, much of the work done during the past twenty-five years seems to have favored the latter approach.

*Tejano Legacy* demonstrates how far scholarship on Hispanic land tenure in the borderlands has progressed since the Chicano-oriented works of Rodolfo Acuña (*Occupied América*, 1972) and John Chávez (*The Lost Land*, 1984). Nor does Alonzo hesitate to take issue with some of the findings of award-winning historians such as Arnalda de León, David Weber, and David Montejano — calling them “too harsh” in their analysis of the *Tejano* experience (p. 281), and saying that the *Tejanos*, rather than being systematically downtrodden, “were a people largely free of open oppression” (p. 282). Especially does he challenge Montejano’s interpretation of Hispanic ranching in the Trans-Nueces as being established on the hacienda model, where elite *patrónes* looked after the interests of their serf-like *peones* who were bound to them by perpetual debt. Few *Tejano* ranches fit this description, says Alonzo, and the region was “mainly an enclave of small ranchers, rather than hacendados” operating on a grand scale (pp. 210, 224-25, 282). Moreover, Alonzo notes that “contrary to popular belief and *Tejano* myth,” the State of Texas adjudicated and validated Spanish and Mexican grants in the Lower Valley “more equitably and quickly” than did the federal government’s agencies and courts in New Mexico, Arizona, and California (pp. 158-59, 283). These are bold, revisionistic statements indeed, not exactly tailored to align Alonzo with the *charro* mentality currently sweeping rodeo arenas across the Southwest. His *rancheros* were more modestly, functionally attired horsemen, and he lets the historical record prevail even when it is at odds with the modern-day rituals practiced by Hispanics eager to regain elements of their ranch heritage.

Alonzo says that how the land eventually passed out of Hispanic hands is
scholars have recognized, and he shows that claims of racist dispossession of these rancheros by Anglo speculators and cattle barons have been exaggerated greatly. Also exaggerated, in Alonzo's view, is the oral and written tradition of constant violence in the Trans-Nueces region for the period 1850-1900, and he argues against "the tendency to see conflict as the central theme of Tejano history" (p. 5). Alonzo has found more evidence of Anglos and Hispanics cooperating and helping one another in the border zone than isolated instances of lynching, cattle theft, and land fraud. His emphasis – much needed in light of the recent literature – is on the comparatively mundane aspects of life and how the Tejano rancheros struggled against the same obstacles to prosperity faced by the Kings, Kenedys, and Lasaters. He explains why many of the latter were able to survive as stockmen while many of the former were not.

In Alonzo's hands it is a story that doesn't detract from the accomplishments of others but emphasizes the accomplishments of one's own. Herein lies the key to a more balanced history of the region, as earlier books were often written in praise of the Anglo "pioneering" role in south Texas and generally portrayed Mexicans as bandits and social riffraff in the process. The books written by Mexicans from south Texas usually did the opposite, pointing out that they were there first and their grandpa used to own (and – if there was any justice in the world – should still own) all the land from Raymondville to Sinton! Such was the emotion-laden historiography that Alonzo had to wade through in order to reach the "truth," and he has done an admirable job. Nonetheless, his book is almost certain to stir considerable debate, as many will question whether his conclusions truly reflect the state of affairs for Hispanics in the Nueces Strip during the nineteenth century.

Jack Jackson
Austin, Texas


Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of books have been written about the Alamo, the battle in 1836 which helped define the Texas Revolution. Few, however, have provided readers with as much trivia about the Alamo as Tim and Terry Todish's Alamo Sourcebook.

The book is, indeed, a comprehensive guide to the San Antonio landmark, the battle that took the lives of more than 180 men, and the Texas Revolution.

For example, the Sourcebook offers a breakdown of the Texas army as it was organized and paid, a similar description of the Mexican army, descriptions and drawings of the dress and uniforms on both sides, drawings of the weapons and equipment used in battle, a full list of the Alamo defenders, and excerpts from letters written by Alamo defenders and others associated with the revolution.
The authors also have included an excellent chronology of events leading up to the Alamo and ending with the conclusive April week at San Jacinto. Another interesting attachment is a weather log for February and March 1836. On the morning of Sunday, March 6, the day the Alamo fell, the weather in San Antonio was "very cold" and the moon was three days past the full phase.

One of the Sourcebook's most valuable sections is a listing of historical sites related to the Alamo and the revolution and organizations involved in the preservation of the Alamo and its legacy.

The Sourcebook should be a welcome addition to any Alamo aficionado's bookshelf.

Bob Bowman, descendant of
Alamo defender Jesse B. Bowman
Lufkin, Texas


Any publication about Northeast East Texas history is welcome, and Lorna Geer Sheppard's compilation of articles from Charles DeMorse's Clarksville Northern Standard is a complement to the biography of the newspaper editor written by Dr. Ernest Wallace in 1942. Though not academic in nature as is the earlier view of The Father Of Texas Journalism, Sheppard's effort is commendable and will assist greatly those who research Texas history.

Why should readers of Texas history turn attention to The Standard's reports of the era between 1841-1846? Wallace, a member of the history faculty of Texas Tech, knew the reason and Sheppard hit on it periodically though not by design. Red River pioneers were Texas history during those days. Take any land map or local history book of any county in Texas, especially those in the eastern half, and Red River pioneers are listed as important chinks in the creation of life there. Thus, De Morse had a Republic-wide, built in audience, not limited to Northeast Texas.

Though Sheppard errs somewhat at times with her historical narrative, the gist is there. Wallace tells more about how Charles Denny Morse came to Clarksville, and how his politics and newspaper influenced more than just a region. Through articles, Sheppard shows what was printed. She categorizes them interestingly into sections dealing with the people and the land. The stories the articles tell are valuable to historians and genealogists or for a casual reader. However, the question remains – why aren't more books published about Northeast Texas?

Now and then a few writers of Texas history "discover" that The Standard, though not indexed, is on microfilm for all to use. It has been for decades, probably thanks to the efforts of the late Paris News writer A.W.
Neville. Now that Sheppard has brought to light the interesting facts the newspaper holds, more will be drawn to use the publication, bringing to life new episodes of Texas history.

Skipper Steely
Paris, Texas


The title of the new book on the Alabama-Coushattas of Polk County, Texas, suggests a sorely-needed cultural history or ethnography, and the work furnishes some good new information along these lines, but its purpose is to explore the issue of cultural identity and to "depict the dynamic nature of culture" (p. 17), using the tribe(s) as a case study. This goal would have been better served with more reference to the large anthropological literature on identity and cultural dynamics, which includes pertinent discussion of the powwow and what the author calls "supratribalism." The analysis pales with descriptions of events that did not effect the Alabama-Coushattas directly, such as the Severalty Act, the rise of the American Indian Movement, and allusions to Geronimo, Ira Hayes, and the Cherokees. There remains, however, an excellent objective record of socio-political trends on the reservation since 1960 that will be useful to scholars and general readers.

The *Caddo Nation*, new in paperback, assesses Euroamerican impact over the entire Southern Caddoan area (eastern Texas and Oklahoma, western Arkansas and Louisiana) during A.D. 1520-1800. Perttula advocates complementing ethnohistory with archaeological data in gauging acculturation, especially changes resulting from introduced disease supposedly rampant prior to sustained contact. The archaeological record turns out to be uneven and open to controversy. There are too few absolute dates, and burial data overshadows settlement information. Several firm conclusions are still possible; for example, that villages along the main river routes of Euroamerican travel saw worse depopulation than those in East Texas. A definitive synthesis of the Caddoan site reports is also achieved, a huge accomplishment and boon to regional archaeologists.

Daniel J. Gelo
University of Texas at San Antonio
During the Civil War the Indian frontier in Texas receded eastward about 100 miles on the average.

This book is about the first civil trial and conviction of Indians for atrocities against settlers in the nation. The event is regarded as the beginning of the end of Indian problems in Texas.

The settlers complained bitterly to the government for protection from raiding Indians. The skeptical Commanding General of the U.S. Army, W. T. Sherman, agreed to an inspection trip to the frontier. He and his small escort narrowly missed the fate of a ten-wagon train owned by Henry Warren. The wagon train was destroyed and seven teamsters killed. A wounded teamster was roasted over a fire.

Satanta, Satank, and Big Tree bragged of their participation in the massacre. The agent told Sherman and he arranged to arrest them in an encounter that nearly erupted in violence.

Satank was killed in an escape attempt. The other two were convicted of murder and sentenced to hang by a court in Jacksboro. They were sent to Huntsville, but were paroled by reconstruction Governor E.J. Davis.

Big Tree eventually became a lay Baptist Minister. Satanta had his parole revoked and killed himself in prison.

The book is recommended for an in-depth treatment of an important but little known event in Texas History.

Wallace Davison
Lufkin, Texas


During his lifetime Satanta was among the most feared of Indians, although Sitting Bull or Geronimo command greater name recognition today. Satanta received national attention when the New York Times described him in 1867 as having no equal "in boldness, daring and merciless cruelty" (p. xvi). The Kiowa warrior posed problems to such high ranking U. S. Army commanders as Grierson, Custer, Sherman and Sheridan. His admirable qualities, as identified by the Times, were disputed by white settlers in Texas and Oklahoma who were terrified of Indian atrocities.

Robinson examines thoroughly the rise of Satanta during a period when conflicts between enforcers of the government's peace policies and the mili-
tary, from the national level to the state level, increased. How these political problems may have affected the Kiowas became a moot question due to the defining moment in Satanta’s life: the Warren wagon train raid of 1871. Arrested and tried in a Texas court, found guilty and sentenced to hang, Governor E. J. Davis commuted his sentence to life at hard labor. An Indian being tried under Texas laws was unprecedented and it revealed the societal changes then taking place. Davis considered the massacre an act of warfare rather than murder. Satanta committed suicide in Huntsville in 1878.

Robinson has not only provided the most complete biography yet of this important Indian leader, but also revealed the bitter conflict between Satanta and Kicking Bird, who realized that accommodation with the whites was the only means for survival; he explains the incongruities of the government’s policies as well as the problems of the Quaker enforcement of the government’s Peace Policy.

The final chapter discusses Satanta’s reburial at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and how his name lives on among his descendants. Noted military authority William H. Leckie provides a foreward to this outstanding biography.

Chuck Parsons
Yorktown, Texas


*The Slave Narratives*, interviews with thousands of former bondsmen conducted by the Federal Writers’ Project in 1937-1938, is the largest and most important source of information on what slavery was like from the point of view of those who were enslaved. Largely unused for nearly forty years, these interviews were edited by George P. Rawick and published by Greenwood Press between 1972 and 1979 in a forty-one-volume collection entitled *The American Slave: A Composite Autobiography*. In 1974, just as the Rawick edition began to appear, Ron Tyler and Lawrence Murphy published a book of excerpts from the narratives given by men and women who experienced slavery in Texas. Now, State House Press has issued a paperback reprint of that publication.

*The Slave Narratives of Texas* has nine chapters, each focusing on an aspect of slave life such as traveling to Texas, working on cotton plantations, realizing what was at stake in the Civil War, and reacting to freedom in 1865. The editors identify the town or county in which each interview was conducted and give the age of the interviewee. Tyler’s introduction to this volume was the best short history of slavery in Texas available when it was published in 1974, and although there are now other brief accounts such as that in *The New Handbook of Texas*, it remains an excellent place to begin reading on the subject.

The slave narratives provide a key perspective from which to view the
Peculiar Institution, and this paperback reprint of Tyler and Murphy's book offers a convenient and inexpensive collection suitable for general readers and use in the classroom as well.

Randolph B. Campbell
University of North Texas


May's question frames this impressive collection of essays on the uses and meanings of Manifest Destiny: "[D]o ideologies guide human behavior, or do they merely mask more substantive motivations?" (p. 162) According to Johannsen, O'Sullivan's phrase was "framed ... in providential and moral terms" (p. 9). His mission was to spread democracy and The Democracy. Expansion could be aggressive or passive; and it had no partisan or sectional boundaries. Through his study of Caleb Cushing, Belohlavek reveals the global and ethnocentric motives of expansionists: "... the United States as the beacon of liberty and progress reaching across a continent and ... seas, subsuming weaker cultures with the benefits of an enlightened Anglo-Saxonism to fulfill a grand global destiny... ." (p. 41). Cushing even abandoned antislavery in the 1850s because it threatened expansion. Hietala shows the contradictions of American "innocence" with its continental ambitions and points out that economic anxieties accompanied racism and ethnocentrism. Fear of "class stratification and labor unrest" provided another motive for expansion (p. 57).

Watson points out that Army officers' roles "were ... more nuanced than the existing ... models of self-interest and romantic nationalism suggest" (p. 69). Balancing career goals with a national ideology, the officers "grew more patient and less-bellacose" and were guided by a "conservative legalism" as manifest-destiny's policemen (p. 74). Filibustering attracted the most ambitious military personnel as well as those on the outer edge driven by local needs and personal gains. As May shows, filibusters were caught up in the spirit of Manifest Destiny, but this ideology was a convenient mask for the personal motives of the likes of Lopez and Walker.

To round off the many faces of Manifest Destiny, Haynes explores the Anglophobia behind Texas annexation. More than a "false phantom" as Merk argued, British involvement in Texas was viewed with genuine alarm by the pro-annexation side; and "by fusing two vitally important issues, national security and slavery [the Texas question was] a momentous turning point in the ... sectional controversy" (p. 136).

Editors Haynes and Morris have provided an excellent volume on a
critical antebellum topic. Each essay stands alone very well, but, taken as a whole, this collection reminds us that "Manifest Destiny obscures more than it clarifies" (p. 51).

Nathaniel A. Jobe
Woodberry Forest School
Woodberry Forest, Virginia


At the time of the American Civil War Galveston was the second largest city in Texas and the commercial and financial center of the state. Possessing one of the best natural harbors on the entire Gulf of Mexico, Galveston was a thriving and dynamic port city through which two-thirds of the state’s cotton was exported annually. The city was also the location of a flourishing slave trade that provided bond labor for Texas’ growing agricultural economy.

With the outbreak of the Civil War in the spring of 1861, Galveston soon found itself under a blockade maintained by the Union navy. The city was captured by the Federals in October 1862, recaptured by the Confederates on January 1, 1863, and “under the threatening guns of one side or the other (and occasionally both) for almost the entire war” (p. 3).

In this well written volume, Edward T. Cotham, Jr., describes the role Galveston played in the Civil War from the secession movement through Kirby Smith’s surrender on June 2, 1865. Cotham believes that Galveston’s importance in the war has been overlooked. Whether or not it is “one of the great untold stories of the war” (p.4), as the author believes, it is a significant story which no one has told as well as Cotham. His account of the battle on January 1, in which Tom Green’s cavalymen on two old river steamers drove off a Union gunboat fleet, makes interesting reading, but Cotham’s most significant contribution – and it is a real one – is his description of life on the island both before and after the battle itself.

The book is obviously the result of painstaking research by the author, an independent scholar and former president of the Houston Civil War Roundtable. His narrative is enhanced by rare historical photographs and the superb maps prepared by Civil War historian-cartographer Donald S. Frazier. This is a book that will be welcomed by all those interested in understanding the role played by Texas and Texans in the Civil War.

Ralph A. Wooster
Lamar University

Nine decades ago the first scholarly study of Reconstruction in Texas appeared. In it Charles W. Ramsdell praised Andrew Johnson for his supposedly moderate ways, belief that African Americans would never be suitable for citizenship because of their inferior mental capacities, and that whites should maintain control under the protection of state prerogatives which characterized the Old South. As one of the stalwarts of the "Dunning school," Ramsdell relied and based his interpretation upon Democratic newspapers, with little or no research into original documents. To be fair, few, if any, manuscripts of the era existed in any organized form early in the 1900s, but he persevered.

Randolph B. Campbell’s grass-roots approach to Texas Reconstruction is the first original attempt to write about this era since Ramsdell’s work. The book is a local case study of six Texas counties located in East Texas and comprising fifteen percent of the state’s population: Colorado, Dallas, Harrison, Jefferson, McLennan, and Nueces. The author engages in an intensive microscopic study of these counties to illustrate the broad outlines of the Reconstruction era in Texas. Campbell attempts to cover the widely divergent geographical and demographical characteristics of the Lone Star State along with a composite overview of both black and white residents. Social and economic factors receive much less attention.

Campbell concludes that federal authority had a “major impact on local developments” (p. 226). Second, the number of scalawags (Southern-born Republicans) in each county was a key to Republican success. Third, population growth and economic change influenced reaction to Reconstruction but neither of these developments displaced the economic elite which controlled the six counties. Fourth, the composition of the foreign-born element in the chosen regions affected how long the Republicans maintained power. Lastly, the percentage of African Americans in each county played the most important role in determining the course of Reconstruction. Counties with small black populations experienced less controversy.

Grass-Roots Reconstruction is the first major attempt at overhauling Ramsdell’s long outdated study of Reconstruction in Texas. But the book has several problems. Campbell’s microscopic focus upon six Texas counties becomes repetitive because it includes similar background on the state Reconstruction situation in each chapter along with the overview at the beginning of the monograph. The study overemphasizes politics and provides minimal information on social and economic conditions which have been discussed in earlier works by James M. Smallwood and Barry A. Crouch. While his command of local resources is commendable, several published and unpublished sources pertaining to social, economic, and political changes
Although numerous publications about Texas in the postwar era have appeared in the past two decades or so, much remains to be done. Campbell has provided historians with several avenues on how to approach the history of the Lone Star State in the aftermath of a long and bloody conflict. Campbell’s careful scrutiny of the six select areas in Reconstruction Texas establishes a benchmark for those who contemplate writing about Texas history in the postwar era. *Grass-Roots Reconstruction* surely will serve as an essential source for Texas politics after the Civil War. Although significant studies are ignored and the selection of the six counties chosen for study can be questioned, it is an important book.

Barry A. Crouch

Gallaudet University

*The Hardisons, A Southern Odyssey*, Elizabeth Shreve Ryan (The Reprint Company, Publishers, P.O. Box 5401, Spartanburg, SC 29304) 1997.


Searching official records of local, state, and federal governments, as well as personal letters and papers, Elizabeth Shreve Ryan has written the history of Jasper Hardison and his descendants, of whom Ryan is one.

Members of the Hardison family migrated early in the 1700s from their roots in the Albemarle area of what became North Carolina, southward through the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. Others moved westward into Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, and along the Gulf coast where, in the middle of the 1850s, they settled in the eastern part of Texas.

In what we know today as Grayson, Polk, and Liberty counties, the Hardisons took active roles in the communities in which they lived. They became doctors and lawyers, operated businesses, and were farmers. When duty called, they served in the Confederate Army. After the Civil War, they returned to their homes and went on with their lives. The descendants of these pioneering and patriotic folks still live in East Texas.

Ryan has provided an excellent account of her family, but more, she has placed the Hardisons in the context of the national events they witnessed. The result is more than family history; it is a lesson in early American history. Ryan’s extensively-documented and well-written book gives the reader a glimpse of social, economic, religious, and business life during the formative years of our state and nation.

Dennis Bradford

Nacogdoches, Texas
Texas, Her Texas: The Life and Times of Frances Goff, Nancy Beck Young and Lewis L. Gould (Texas State Historical Association, 2.306 Sid Richardson Hall, University Station, Austin, TX 78712) 1997. Contents, Sources, Index. P. 224. B&W Illustrations. $29.95. Hardcover.

Texas, Her Texas is a biography of Frances Goff, one of a growing number of Texas women receiving the long deserved attention of historians. Her career stretched from childhood years in Kenedy and Center, Texas, to Austin politics in the 1940s, to the military in World War II, and later to Houston, where she participated in developing M. D. Anderson Hospital. The highlight of her career was organizing and maintaining the Bluebonnet Girls State Program that seems to have been the love of her life.

The Frances Goff papers and the Girls State Archive, located at the Center for American History at the University of Texas, Austin, form the heart of this book. Lewis Gould and Nancy Beck also conducted an important series of oral interviews with Goff and her friends and acquaintances in 1993-1994, concluding shortly before her death. These offer a great deal of insight into Goff's personality and experiences and highlight her role in twentieth-century Texas.

In Frances Goff the authors found a woman who, first of all, loved politics from childhood and turned that love into working for Coke Stevenson, Beauford Jester, and Allan Shivers during the conservative Democratic domination of the 1940s. Among other positions held, she was budget director of the state after World War II. She later switched from the Democratic to the Republican Party, reflecting the political conservatism of her earlier life. I wished for a deeper examination of this political world and of her role in it. As Gould and Beck said in their introduction, this book does not exhaust the life of Goff as a subject for historical inquiry. They have, however, made a good start. They point out that she was a woman operating in a male-dominated world who helped make that world work and brought benefits to women in the process. She was an organizer.

Later in her life Goff turned her political and organizational talents to the development of the M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital in Houston. Readers interested in that institution will benefit from this volume.

Most of the interviews upon which this book was based were given by women who participated in the Bluebonnet Girls State program, which was organized through the American Legion Auxiliary and operated under Goff's directorship from 1951 to 1994. The best known of the 20,000 women who participated is ex-Governor Ann Richards, who wrote the preface of this book and credited Goff with being a major source of support in her political career. One chapter is dedicated to the relationship between these two women, one a conservative and the other not. There are many interesting aspects to the Girls State section of this book, including Goff's support for integration, her dominant role in the organization and attempts to oust her by the American Legion Auxiliary, her attempts to carry the program to the national level, and the support system developed for young women through Goff's interest and
effort. *Texas, Her Texas* should be added to every Texas history library; it made me want to know more about the role of women in politics in Frances Goff's generation.

Jo Ann Stiles
Lamar University


The authors set out to chronicle the development of the medical profession in Texas as seen through the lives of pioneering women in the field. The book was not intended to be an exhaustive study but to increase understanding of the ways in which women have overcome stereotypes and contributed to medicine in Texas. Their goal was achieved through this wonderful volume.

Many strong and courageous women come alive on the pages of this work. This well-researched treatise is a delightful portrayal of women who in every sense of the word were pioneers. It is by no means a dry chronological recitation of one woman after another, but rather a story about the development of medicine in Texas, woven around the lives of remarkable women who overcame great obstacles to pursue careers they wanted, felt called to, and enjoyed. Personal details about the women heighten the enjoyment of the reading.

This well organized book begins with an informative sketch of the history of medicine in the world and the United States with a focus on Texas. A description is offered of women practicing the healing arts as folk and faith healers, curanderas, and midwives prior to the regulation of medicine. Women in fields more open to them — nursing, dentistry, and pharmacy — are described as well.

The remainder of the book is spent on women medical doctors in Texas and how they excelled in their specialties. Many "firsts" were cited, from the first woman to be accepted to a medical school to modern-day pioneers continuing to make inroads in medicine. Rich prose makes the reality of Texas vivid and the volume is supplemented generously with pictures of many of the women portrayed. This book should be a welcome addition to any historical library.

Barbara Cordell
Nacogdoches, Texas


*Texas Women Writers* provides a comprehensive history of the development of women's literary tradition in the state. It is a long-overdue book citing
the women who contributed to the Texas literary scene from 1830 to the present. The editors define Texas women writers as women who have lived in the state long enough to develop a sense of place, to acquire an understanding of the state’s regional and cultural diversity, and to reflect it in their work. The book is designed for both scholars and general readers to be informational as well as entertaining and to provide a source for further research.

The editors state that most often Texas literary history has been dominated by male writers because of a “good ole boy” attitude that excluded most female writers. Such attitudes perpetuated the Texas Mystique of the Texas cowboy, life on the range, big oil, and brassiness epitomized by J. Frank Dobie and his admirers. Most Texas Women writers have faced “the truth” of motive in the Texas experience, illuminating life as it really was.

The many contributors to the text provide a range of essays on writers from Mary Austin Holley to Katherine Anne Porter to women still publishing today. The essayists provide biographical sketches, summaries of major works, and brief critical evaluations of individual authors. The editors admit that they encouraged a variety of styles “to increase readability” and that documentation styles and format vary from contributor to contributor. In fact, this variation makes for more difficult reading, and the unevenness of style results in some articles that are very readable while others are encyclopedic. Footnotes to verify statements in the essays would have added much to the text. However, the extensive bibliography makes an important contribution. No where else can one find so much information on Texas women writers. The long list of writers seems necessary to make up for the short shrift Texas women writers have received in the past, and yet it suggests a desperate attempt not to leave anyone out. As a result, lesser writers are put on similar footing with the greatest.

The book is called “a work in progress” because of the extraordinary degree of literary activity in Texas today among women. This book should be placed in libraries in high schools and universities to fill a large and obvious gap in Texas literary history.

Sarah R. Jackson
Stephen F. Austin State University


Texas Women: Frontier to Future traces the lives of significant Texas women beginning with would-be empresario Jane McManus Cazneau in 1832 to Kay Bailey Hutchinson, who won the senate race in 1993 and became the first woman United States senator from Texas.

In this social history, the theme is that Texas women in many fields have won their place in Texas history for their contributions to the state’s heritage.
Each woman influenced the development of Texas in her area of expertise or through her struggle improved the lot of women.

The frontier women portrayed wrote of their adventures through memoirs and articles to publicize the abundant advantages to living in the frontier state of Texas. The next group of writers used their Texas experiences in their novels and articles on Texas cooking and culture. Texians also had their influence in the national development of the theatre, philanthropy, art, and politics. Ragsdale and Crawford focused on women who had outlooks different from men because they pressed for equal opportunity for women.

The significance of the freedoms and careers open to women late in the twentieth century and on into the twenty-first century are underscored by the achievements of women who went before them. The women highlighted have shown that, in addition to it now being accepted practice for women to hold elected office, it is also harder for legislatures and businesses to practice general discrimination against women’s rights. Crawford’s and Ragsdale’s style is clear, enjoyable, and readable. From extensive use of secondary and primary sources, as well as personal interviews with the subjects or their descendants and their contemporaries, they created a synthesized, perceptive study on the role of women in Texas.

The biographies are fairly objective, giving both complimentary and critical observations. However, Adah Isaacs Menken did not belong in this book since she does not conform to the criteria of the rest of the subjects and she only briefly toured Texas. She brought her art to a new low and was selfish to the core. Each of the other women included in the study developed her talents to the fullest or organized others to work for “high purposes.” One other comment: Helen Moore was the first woman to chair a Texas House committee (1931), not Eddie Bernice Johnson (p. 312).

Priscilla Benham
Houston, Texas


Residence in the Red River Valley links the eight subjects of this entry in the publisher’s “Women of the West” series. None is an unknown, but neither has any received full biographical treatment. Victorian women ahead of their time, living liberated lives? A partial truth, but mostly theirs are stories of tough-minded responses to circumstances moderns have trouble imagining.

Pre-Victorian Sophia Porter (1815-1897), had four husbands, was rumored to have had a liaison with Sam Houston, and was called both a whore and a saint. This account does not add to Jack Maguire’s superior essay on her in Legendary Ladies of Texas (1981), a publication of the Texas Folklore Society.

Lydia McPherson broke out of woman’s domestic sphere to become the
first woman newspaper publisher in Texas and Oklahoma. Her four newspapers included what is today the Sherman Democrat.

The youthful home of beautiful Lucy Pickens was Wyalucing, an antebellum mansion that Marshall residents regrettably failed to save when Bishop College moved to Dallas. Far from the Red River, Lucy gained fame as the wife of Francis W. Pickens, U. S. ambassador to Russia in 1858 and later governor of South Carolina, which state has first claim to her colorful story.

In 1851, Olive Ann Fairchild, then thirteen years of age, was captured by Yavapais Indians when her family’s wagon train was attacked in Arizona. Traded to the Mojaves and disfigured by facial tattoos, she was enslaved for six years before her brother secured her release. On the lecture circuit she insisted that the Indians never approached her sexually. The comparison with captive Cynthia Ann Parker, mother of Chief Quanah, is inescapable.

The widow Lucy Ann Thornton Kidd came to Sherman in 1888 with money to buy an interest in a private college. Her greatest work at North Texas Female College was the Kidd-Key Conservatory of Music. It closed in 1935, but the training it gave lives on among Texas musicians today.

Ela Hockaday had a vision of a new kind of education for twentieth-century women. Her monument, the Hockaday School, occupies 100 North Dallas acres today.

After cleaning up the Grayson County Poor Farm and starting a public day nursery in Sherman, Edna Gladney found herself in Fort Worth when husband Sam’s Gladiola flour business failed. She built an adoption agency, the Gladney Center, that is known worldwide. The film starring Greer Garson, Blossoms in the Dust (1941), was the fictionalized story of “the big pink peach with an angelic face” – Miss Garson’s description of her friend Edna.

A school dropout at age twelve, Enid Justin grew to her six-foot height working in her father’s boot-making shop. Her brothers moved the Justin Boot Company to Fort Worth. “Miss Enid” started the Nocona Boot Company in competition with them and guided it long past normal retirement age – a force in her home town and beyond. She said she was proud to be a “women’s libber” before the word was invented.

Lucy Ann Kidd-Key, five-feet tall and dedicated to being “womanly,” did not approve of Carrie Nation or other suffragists, but neither did she approve of the “clinging vine” type. “We need more courageous women,” she told the Fort Worth Record in 1913 (p. 141-142).

They were out there, and books such as this one help us find them.
Sarah Greene
Gilmer, Texas
Gateway to Texas: History of Red River County, Martha Sue Stroud, (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 1997. Contents. Endnotes. Index. Illustrations. P.446. $29.95. Hardcover.

Martha Stroud calls Red River County the gateway to Texas in her title and also refers to it as the “Mother County of Texas.” The county was an important route into Texas from the United States, and the first eight chapters of her book deals with the early history of Texas as it related to Red River County and includes a whole chapter on the “War Between the States.” The bulk of the book then deals with the history of the county in topical fashion with chapters on education, medicine, newspapers, dwellings, cemeteries, etc. Finally, the author has a chapter with a paragraph or two about each of the small communities in the county, and concludes with interviews with twenty-four men and women who were residents of the county and who were born in the 1890s or the early twentieth century. Like all such reminiscences, they contain charming and useful tales that increase our appreciation and understanding of social history along with many others that add little to our knowledge. In other words, the interviews are uneven in value. Stroud probably edited them in order to make them less repetitious and more useful and informative.

This book has some of the hallmarks of a typical county history. It is mostly lacking in interpretation, sometimes jumps from one topic to another that is unrelated and even in a different era, has lengthy lists of names, is too much concerned with identifying firsts, and has many long quotations from sources that are interesting and informative but mostly outdated and inaccurate in interpretation. Nevertheless the work has many redeeming features. The author writes well, the book is generally free of typographical errors, and includes black and white pictures, endnotes, and an index. Residents of Red River County, particularly, and East Texans generally, should find it interesting and worthwhile.

E. Dale Odom
Denton, Texas


People who are drawn to rivers, and some who are not, dream of a float or walk down their favorite stretch of river or bottomland. Trinity River: Photographs, by Luther Smith, comes close to this often dreamed but frequently neglected experience. A client of the famed portraitist Karsh of Ottawa said, “Karsh, you have immortalized me!” This remark came to mind while following Smith’s photographic work down the Trinity. His landscape composition, his use of light and shadow and texture, superbly captures the spirit of this long neglected Texas river.

Prefatory essays by Mike Nichols and Thomas W. Southhall enhance the
reader’s understanding of the work, and add flavor to the photographs. Notes on the photos are given at the back of the book so one’s attention to the pictures is not distracted by captions.

The photographs are variously placid, serene, often stunning, sometimes jarring and dismaying. Into the edges of some of them creep the love people have for the Trinity River as well as the damage they have done to it. This collection of photographs is to be enjoyed as a sensitive, honest picture of an important Texas place.

C.P. Barton
Stephen F. Austin State University


What’s new? Galveston has had a continuous economic battle for port supremacy from the swashbuckling occupation of pirate Jean Lafitte to today’s rivalry with the Port of Houston. Young’s study of Galveston’s struggle from 1865-1900 to become the leading seaport of the Gulf Coast servicing the Southwestern United States is an in-depth inquiry on how economics, shipping, railroad, technology, and the political process can impact the death and/or growth of a city and its port.

Young has taken on the enormous task of weaving Galveston’s power brokers (W.L. Moody, Walter Gresham, George Sealy, Harris Kempner), state and national politicians, and the Corps of Engineers in a continuous battle on how to accomplish and finance the making of Galveston as a deep-water port in preference to other potential gulf ports.

The author has done an excellent job in researching and documenting topics such as the lobbying interests, governmental vs. private economic support, railroad interests, and regional and national politics. I was especially intrigued by Young’s ability to interweave the varied personalities and their agendas on the issue of Galveston’s deep-water port. Young’s contention that the water issue was “a clash between competitive commercial interests - merchants, bankers, railroads, and ports - the new West versus those in the East,” rightly summarizes the process that culminated in Galveston receiving $500,000 in order to complete the work on the jetties.

The old saying that “A picture is worth a thousand words” allows me to make the statement that a railroad map of the period and Galveston Island map, Port of Galveston area drawing, drawings of sandbar locations, and maybe cross section drawings of the jetties would help some of us visual learners to understand the technical and geographical issue better.

Alexander Pratt
Texas City, Texas
First, a caveat. Because I have had a bit more than a passing acquaintance with Audie Murphy and Jose Lopez, two Texan winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor, I might be thought to be biased in favor of Kiplingesque heroics. If so, so be it.

Texans of Valor has modest merit as a record of some of the citations which earned these and other Texans heroic stature, though it might be wished that the author had had more familiarity with military vocabulary and terminology.

It is uneven, also, in that it treats differently some of the better known veterans of World War I, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War than it does of less familiar heroes of World War II, who seem to merit only a recitation of their citations. As an example, John W. Thomason, Jr., of Huntsville, arguably the best writer-artist in Texas history—a personal hero—justly receives an extended treatment but no citation for his World War I decorations, which included the Navy Cross and the Army’s Silver Star.

The same is true of Samuel M. Sampler, another World War I veteran and Congressional Medal of Honor winner, who is distinctly less well known than Thomason, while three others, David Bennes Barkeley, Daniel E. Edwards, and David Ephraim Hayden, receive only a citation recital, and in two of these cases there is no statement of the decoration for which the citation was written.

Oveta Culp Hobby leads off the World War II section, without any documentation of “valor,” while James Earl Rudder, a genuine hero whose mission at Pointe du Hoc was declared by General Dwight Eisenhower to be the most difficult and dangerous assignment for the D-Day landings, receives extended treatment but no indication of the decorations for valor which he received.

The same, too, for Doris Miller, the black Navy messman who went down with the carrier USS Linscome Bay after heroic action at Pearl Harbor, whose only decoration was a posthumous Purple Heart.

Audie Murphy, who won every decoration for valor which a grateful nation can award, receives his due but no recitation of citations. He is followed by Dwight Eisenhower and Chester Nimitz, who never received a decoration for valorous combat. Samuel D. Dealey of Dallas, the pig boat captain who went down with the Harder, justly earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for his earlier exploits, but there is no citation recorded to establish the award.

Korean and Vietnam are represented by five heroes each, including U.S. Representative Sam Johnson of Dallas. He receives eight pages of text and a full-page photograph but no citation and no statement of his decorations.

Uneven, yes, and that’s a shame. There still is need for a coherent, balanced, and literate treatment of a topic for which Stephen Ambrose, in a slightly different context, has become such an eloquent spokesman.

Max S. Lale
Marshall and Fort Worth
Writing in the Texas Observer in 1974 about his friend Jubal R. (J.R.) Parten, John Henry Faulk commented, "His name is not exactly a household word in Texas, but it ought to be" (p.559). Readers of Don Carleton's massive new biography of Parten will find it difficult, if not impossible, to quarrel with Faulk's assessment.

J.R. Parten lived life to its fullest during his ninety-six years. Some knew the Madisonville native for his business successes. An independent oil producer and refiner for most of seven decades, he played a pivotal role in the regulatory and prorationing battles over the East Texas field during the depths of the Great Depression. His tenure as president of the Independent Petroleum Association of Texas attracted the attention and respect of government officials in both Austin and Washington, D.C. This led to innumerable public service opportunities which Parten accepted as business responsibilities allowed.

Parten was most proud of his six years as a regent of the University of Texas, serving as chairman from 1939 to 1941. He engineered a change in the bidding process for mineral rights to university lands which resulted in untold millions in additional revenue for the Permanent Fund. He also became a staunch advocate of academic freedom and sought at every turn to protect his beloved alma mater from political meddling. Once the military conflict in Europe threatened to engulf the United States, Parten accepted appointment as director of the Transportation Division of the Petroleum Administration for War, securing approval for and overseeing construction of the Big Inch and Little Inch pipelines to connect the Atlantic seaboard with the oil fields and refineries of the southwest. Government leaders repeatedly tapped the quiet Texas millionaire in subsequent years to serve the nation in a variety of appointive capacities.

Parten also made his mark in the political arena as a stalwart of the moderate to liberal faction of the Democratic Party in Texas. A "yellow-dog" Democrat of conservative economic beliefs but liberal social convictions, he contributed to and advised Jimmy Allred, Ernest O. Thompson, Homer Rainey, and Ralph Yarborough in their campaigns for office. He joined other loyalists in the thirty-year struggle against Texas Regulars and Shivercrats for control of the state party. Unlike most successful oilmen whose fortunes turned them in a reactionary direction, Parten became more liberal as the decades passed—opposing the Vietnam War, denouncing the nuclear arms race, and consistently speaking up for better relations with the Soviet Union.

Carleton meticulously traces these three overlapping elements of a truly remarkable life. By any measure, A Breed So Rare is an impressive work based upon scores of personal interviews, an exhaustive examination of primary documents in various archival collections, and the relevant secondary
petroleum industry, higher education, and Democratic Party politics in Texas throughout the twentieth century.

L. Patrick Hughes
Austin Community College


Every East Texan, especially those who grew up with the cowboy matinees of the 1940s, should have this book on his or her bookshelf.

Tex Ritter, whose roots reach deep into the soil of Panola County, is clearly an East Texas icon, and Bill O'Neal has produced an entertaining history of a entertainer who shaped a place in both the movies and in country-and-western music.

Ritter was one of the earliest of Texas singers and performers who became nationally recognized entertainers. He paved the way for Jim Reeves (who also was born in Panola County), Gene Autry, Ernest Tubb, Hank Thompson, Barbara Mandrell, and others.

O'Neal, who lives in Ritter's home county, provides a potpourri of vignettes from Ritter's life, some of which may surprise even die-hard Ritter fans:

*Tex started his career in New York singing in the chorus of an Oscar Hammerstein musical, "The New Moon," in 1928;

*He wasn't recognized as a cowboy singer until a new musical, "Green Grow the Lilacs," a cowboy musical that was later reworked into "Oklahoma;"

*Ritter's first starring movie role was in a science-fiction serial with a western setting, "Phantom Empire;"

*One of Ritter's most famous songs, "Do Not Forsake Me," was added as an afterthought to the movie "High Noon" by director Stanley Kramer;

*While Ritter's funeral was in Nashville, Tennessee, where he enjoyed fame as a recording artist, he was buried in Oak Grove Cemetery in Port Neches, Texas, near Nederland, where he had lived as a youngster.

O'Neal has been fascinated by the cowboy star since the age of ten, when he bought a 45 RPM recording of "High Noon," which he still owns.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas


As a big swing-band enthusiast, I was not an Ernest Tubb fan in his early 1940s singing career. Then I joined the Navy and left East Texas. When the
bugle blew reveille at Great Lakes and some country boy hollered, "Turn on
the brush music!" Ernest Tubb made every homesick Southern sailor think he
was back home. The Texas Troubadour had the pure-D honky-tonk sound, and
"Walking the Floor Over You" was the back-home, county-line, honky-tonk
classic in 1943.

Author Ronnie Pugh, head of the Reference Department at the Country
Music Foundation in Nashville, has written a detailed and definitive biography
of Ernest Tubb, the Texas Troubadour. It is not only a meticulously docu­
mented work of scholarship, it is also a fascinating, readable account of a com­
plicated human being, warts and all.

Pugh’s account of Tubb’s first five years, 1936 to 1941, of getting started,
is a lesson in dedication and endurance that is heroic – and typical of the rags­
to-riches experience in America.

Ernest Tubb had a lucky streak, but he also paid his dues to become the
number-one country musician on the charts. He lived country music from his
first listening. He started out as a Jimmie Rodgers fan singing in the Jimmie
Rodgers style. Then, he met Jimmie’s wife Carrie, who loaned him Jimmie’s
guitar and helped him get his first Bluebird recording session. That piece of
luck fired him up into playing at drive-ins, theatres, then a few early morning
radio shows, but never giving up. He had day jobs at a drug store (at $10 a
week), driving a beer truck, selling mattresses, drifting from Midland to
Corpus to Beaumont. At one time he had a tavern in San Angelo. He got to Fort
Worth in 1940 with $5 in his pocket, a $25-a-week radio show, and with his
wife hopping cars at a drive-in. And then he did "Walking the Floor Over You,"
and he was on his way.

Ernest got bigger and better during the war. He was in B-western movies,
cut more records, had prime-time radio shows, sold song books, and began his
Texas Troubadours. He hit it bigtime when he became a regular on the Grand
Ole Opry in Nashville in 1943. He brought down the house in New Orleans in
1944 with "Soldier’s Letter."

After the war Tubb was touring, broadcasting, generating fan clubs, and
being the featured performer at a Carnegie Hall show in 1947. In the postwar
years he was the number one country singer with "Rainbow at Midnight," "Filipino Baby," and "Drivin' Nails in My Coffin," among others. And he and
Hank Snow played for the troops in Korea in 1953, giving him what he called
the best audience he ever had.

Ernest Tubb made it to the top and stayed there or thereabouts for a forty­
year career. All of this singing fame came in spite of heavy smoking on bad
lungs and drinking sprees that abused his voice and body and everybody
around him. But Tubb's salvation was that he was always a professional, and
he never forgot that an audience was the other half of his performance. He
loved his audiences, and he sang directly to each person there; they loved him
personally, not just as a performer.

Ronnie Pugh has written a biography of Ernest Tubb in the framework of
a history of country music during Ernest’s time. The Texas Troubadour is the story of the growth of country music and the musicians who made that music from the Forties to the Eighties. Ernest was involved with and helped get started most of the famous country singers of his time, Hank Williams and Hank Snow, for two. Ronnie tells the stories of Ernest’s singing friends as well as the stories of many less famous sidemen who played throughout the long Troubadour history.

Ronnie Pugh’s trip through country music USA and the life of Ernest Tubb: The Texas Troubadour is a necessary experience for all c&w fans.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University


Rod Kennedy is the producer and organizer of one of the most successful and longest-running outdoor folk festivals in Texas. Beginning with a career in FM radio in Austin, and for more than thirty years, he has been involved in a variety of musical activities such as concerts by symphony orchestras, ballets, bluegrass concerts, fiddling contests, jazz and big-band concerts, and performances by folk singers, blues singers, and Country-Western performers at his ranch in Kerrville. Who else then, is more qualified to write about this?

The book is essentially a year-by-year recap of virtually every concert, festival, or performance presented by Kennedy, with a few digressions that are not really consistent with the main theme. Every festival or concert ever produced by Kennedy is covered. The discussions include the names of the performers, reflections on the success or failure of the event (was it rained out?), and if the occasion was profitable. Kennedy could have improved upon his book by including more information on at least some of the performers such as biographical, musical style, training, etc. Two names that appear throughout the book are those of Allen Damron and Carolyn Hester. Aside from a sketchy comment or two, little is written that would more fully enlighten the reader as to talent, style, skill, musical contribution, and biography of these individuals.

Kennedy tried too hard to incorporate music into his life experiences that resulted in error or inaccuracy or had little or nothing to do with “Music from the Heart.” He writes of his Korean War experience and attempts to make music here by the plaintive notes of “China Nights” that emerged from the broadcasts of Hanoi Sally. There was Tokyo Rose, Hanoi Hannah, and Axis Sally, but was there really a Hanoi Sally during the Korean conflict? Is there some confusion here with the Vietnam era? Then there is the digression on sports cars and auto racing which could have been deleted and never been missed because it has nothing in common with the main theme of the book.
There are two other errors, although minor, that should be pointed out because it suggests failure to address detail. One is the misspelling of the name, Alan Munde, famous former banjo player of the bluegrass group, Country Gazette. It is spelled Mundy. Then there is the spelling of the song title "Westphalia Waltz," that he spells, Westfalia.

Aside from the above criticisms, it is a well written and abundantly illustrated publication. It would seem to be of immediate interest to the many who have performed for Kennedy, as well as those who have an interest in what may be considered as an example of good "Texanity"!

Charles Gardner
Nacogdoches, Texas


In the autumn of 1952, five similar cases challenging the venerable “separate but equal” doctrine laid down in Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896), reached the Supreme Court of the United States. Pooled into one action, these cases came to be known collectively as Brown vs Board of Education of Topeka. A year and a half later, in May 1954, the court handed down its monumental decision: the segregated system of education practiced in the South for decades under the protection of the “separate but equal” doctrine was unconstitutional. In a separate ruling issued a year later and known simply as Brown II, the court mandated that the responsibility for “... solving these problems...” (segregation), lay with local authorities, their efforts to be coordinated and enforced by the lower courts. Moreover, the court decreed that the segregated school system was to be dismantled with “all deliberate speed.”

Subsequently, the authorities in every Southern state sought to evade their legal responsibilities by one means or another, some quite sophisticated, as in North Carolina, others blatantly and openly racist, as in Arkansas, Alabama, and Mississippi. In Texas, where Allan Shivers, a man almost totally bereft of morals and scruples, was governor, the political leadership at all levels braced for an assault on “the Southern way of life.” Conducting themselves in despicable fashion, the politicians and racists were encouraged by a complete lack of assistance on the part of President Dwight D. Eisenhower to enforce the law.

Mansfield was a typical small, segregated Texas town. No plans had been made to implement the Supreme Court’s mandate. When the local NAACP chapter presented a petition to end segregation forthwith in July 1955, the school board was taken by surprise but rejected the plea after brief consideration. In September the NAACP filed a lawsuit alleging that integration was a constitutional right of the town’s black citizens, but because of the fear of reprisals, only three families at first joined the suit. Undeterred, the plaintiffs simply converted to a “class action suit:” but to their dismay. Judge Joseph E.
Estes ruled against them and dismissed the case. He was reversed on appeal and the Mansfield school board was ordered to integrate its high school in the fall of 1956.

From August to October 1956, a tragedy unfolded in Mansfield, Texas, that marked the lives of many people. In their effort to achieve their constitutional right to a decent education, the black citizens of Mansfield, along with their lawyers and supporters, met obstruction at every turn. While the lawyers for the school board fought a rear-guard action in court to delay implementation, the townsfolk acted on their own by threatening violence on the campus of the high school. Pleas by the plaintiffs to Governor Shivers for assistance from state law enforcement authorities were ignored. Fearing for their safety, the plaintiffs did not attempt to register at the appointed time on August 31, 1956. Shivers exulted that the federal courts had been successfully defied, and Eisenhower, when asked about the situation in Texas, feigned ignorance. Meanwhile, the legal efforts of the defendants to reverse the integration order failed. Their appeal to the Supreme Court was denied in December.

Legally, Mansfield High School should have been integrated forthwith, but Mansfield High School was not integrated for nine years because threats, intimidation, and malfeasance by governmental officials at all levels triumphed over the law. But the efforts of those in Mansfield who sought justice were not in vain. Their quest was a sign post to the future and it marked a point in time after which things would never be the same.

Until the appearance of this book the Mansfield episode was not well-known. Now, perhaps, it will achieve its rightful place in the history of the civil rights revolution. The author has done an excellent job of research. She has plumbed all the relevant archival material and added interesting and useful information from oral history interviews. Her text is thorough. Step by excruciating step she demonstrates how politicians at the local, state, and federal levels prevented integration at Mansfield High in 1956. Her work provides a new—and deservedly—unflattering perspective on the actions of Governor Shivers and President Eisenhower. All in all, this is a must read for all serious students of Texas and Twentieth-Century America.

Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr.
Midwestern State University

A Comprehensive Guide to Outdoor Sculpture in Texas, Carole Morris Little
(University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819)

Around the turn of the century, about the same time the monumental state capital and courthouse buildings were being built, Texans also commenced to array the state with sculpture. It all began in 1880 with the commemoration of the heroes of the Alamo and the Lady Justice on the dome of the State Capitol. In the years since public monuments have ranged from the silly—Cadillac Ranch out-
side Amarillo — and the eccentric — the statue of Jesus in Cowboy boots in Paris — to the poignant — St. Mary’s Grotto on the tiny town of Windthorst.

Carol Morris Little and her husband Robert, a Longview CPA, spent ten years visiting all 254 Texas counties, seeing it all. The culmination of that decade of effort is the first definitive reference book about the 1,200 examples of public sculpture in the Lone Star State. Little, a Marshall native, began her book with an introduction to the general subject, followed by a quick description of how to interpret the rest of the contents — a rich combination of factual material about each statue, along with a description of its location, and in 800 instances a photograph taken by Robert.

Entries in the book are alphabetized by city. In addition, Little has provided an index of sculpture titles as well as one for subject matter which makes it easy to use the book as a travel guide as well as a research tool. But it also makes good reading. Consider St. Mary’s Grotto. The citizens of Windthorst saw twenty percent of its population leave to serve in the armed forces during World War II. So many men in harm’s way caused the citizens in the largely-Catholic town to erect a shrine to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at St. Mary’s Church, located on U.S. Highway 281. It was a visual symbol of their constant prayers for a safe return of their soldiers. The entire town, including the servicemen, contributed to a fund to build it, and all sixty-four returning veterans were present when it was dedicated in 1950.

Texas statuary ranges from obelisk to animal, and Little included both. There are the statues of hippos in Hutto, killer bees in the Valley, a roadrunner in Lufkin, dinosaurs in Fort Worth, horses and longhorns in Dallas, and an elephant in San Antonio. Phillip Johnson’s vast Fort Worth Water Garden, dedicated in 1974, is included, as is the cenotaph for the 294 children and teachers killed in a tragic natural gas explosion at their school in New London in 1937. Contributions from all over the world funded it.

Gail K Beil
Marshall, Texas


Ah, the way we were! Or were we? How did we look in the mirror of our achievements and the images of our aspirations, in another year come and gone? We see the bones of triumphs and tragedies, progress and regression, nobility and banality, all in disparate proportions ... as usual.

Editor Charles Brooks selects the best of last year’s crop of editorial cartoons from American and Canadian newspapers. One hundred sixty-eight cartoonists drew over 400 snippets of our national life, arranged by Brooks into eighteen somewhat overlapping categories.

Canny artists sketch the caprice, vanity, and conflicts-of-interest of pub-
arrogant corporations, all trying to make us equate their acquisitive gropings with our own good. The intrusiveness of the IRS and the fatal commerce in tobacco emphasize the interchangeable avarice of public and private entities.

The pervasive violence of our most basic institutions is highlighted in stark relief, along with up-lifting advances in science and the passing of revered public figures. One rolls swimmingly from elegies to Mother Teresa and Princess Diana to the problems of second-hand smoke, from sectarian boycotts of The Mouse to the mind-numbing claims for Ebonics.

The mix of pen and ink representations is as befuddling as the reality of the last year. Those poignant vignettes of how we looked to the artists put a sharp edge onto the practical contradictions of modern life. Is this really the way we were (are)? Charles Brooks enables us to evolve our own answers to the query.

James G. Dickson
Stephen F. Austin State University


The author has been employed since 1985 with the Texas Department of Public Safety as the agency's Public Information Officer. The primary focus of the book is on the seven-day siege in 1997 at the Davis Mountain Resort in Jeff Davis County, Texas. The initial incident occurred when members of the latter day Republic of Texas (ROT) seized two hostages. Subsequently, the hostages were released and within seven days five members of the ROT submitted to arrest. The author articulated three purposes for the book. First, it is a true crime story; for a general audience it meets that goal but for a historian - there was very little primary source material presented. Second, it is part memoir; the author has succeeded, with his ample use of personal anecdotes. Finally, it is part textbook. He has provided an excellent "cookbook" for both public safety agency administrators and their PIOs. They ignore his suggestions at their peril. The ROT drama described is in fact not unique to Texas. The author stated, "...it was obvious to me that the Republic of Texas situation was only the Lone Star version of a much bigger [militia] movement" (p. 102).

John P. Harlan
Stephen F. Austin State University


By their table tops shall ye know them.

True blue G.H.W. Bush supporters will delight in showing this volume on
their coffee tables, as well perhaps as some Aggies of Democratic Party persuasion. After all, the latters' alma mater shares campus space with publisher Texas A&M University Press as well as the George Bush Library and its affiliate school of public affairs.

David Valdez is the man behind the lens. Most of the photographs in the book are from the extensive collection he accumulated while recording the life of President Bush during his years as vice president and president. These are supplemented by shots of the Bush childhood onward to Yale and the Eli baseball team and hero of naval warfare in the Pacific.

That the book is in an album format does not signify it is unworthy of review. In VII pages of introduction and 147 pages of photography, it is a slice of history. If there is a quibble, it is that there is nothing here of China or the years other than as the executive of a great nation or as a sky diver and wise counselor on matters politic.

Happily, Barbara and first dog Millie and the grandchildren appear in the pages, along with photographs of such world figures as the Pope, the four living former presidents with whom Bush was photographed at the opening of the Reagan Library, and the central figures in the Gulf War, which produced his highest poll ratings before a rapid descent to loss of his job in 1992.

The photographs are excellent. The story they tell is the stuff of history. Don't let the coffee table format fool you.

Max S. Lale
Marshall and Fort Worth


During the 1880s, Alexander Sweet published a magazine entitled Texas Siftings, and for the past several years journalist Jerry Flemmons has carried all this literary device by "sifting" through books and miscellaneous other sources to fill a monthly feature for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. In 1995, TCU Press published a collection, Jerry Flemmons' Texas Siftings, and now there is a second volume, More Texas Siftings.

Like the first book, More Texas Siftings offers a delightful array of anecdotes, pioneer reminiscences, "Texas Eats," and odd bits of Texana. In 1839, for example, there were only forty women among Houston's population of 3,000, and this predominantly male population enjoyed forty-seven saloons. In an issue of the Galveston News, published in 1875, Flemmons found the story of a unique lynching in Waco: when a mob hanged Mat Wallace to a low tree, they used a second rope to suspend his feet to another tree to prevent him from
for "Wild Mustang Green Grape Pie," "Turkey Fries," "Corncob Jelly," and "Flat Snake Chili." There are first-person descriptions of frontier Texas, along with insightful observations. "We had only two or three laws," recalled O. Henry, "such as against murder before witnesses and being caught stealing horses and voting the Republican ticket."

Jerry Flemmons' More Texas Siftings is a treasury of Texana, with nostalgic and amusing information on every page.

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