
Max Lale has spent much of his eighty-four years writing for newspapers, in learned journals, at the behest of civic or historical organizations, and at least four books. However, when he began writing the manuscript that became Max's Memoirs, he thought he was writing for himself or at most for his family and a few close friends. Two of those friends, journalist Bill Moyers and Stephen F. Austin history professor Archie McDonald, convinced him the material needed to be published. They were right.

The manuscript was composed, chapter by chapter, on Lale's beloved Royal manual typewriter - graciously offered to the news staff of his former employer, the Marshall News Messenger, during what turned out to be the non-crisis Y2K crisis. He thought it might be needed if the computers crashed permanently. He knew full well there wasn't a soul around who could still make one work accurately.

Many readers, particularly those who know Lale or are aware of the publication of his World War II letters in Volume 32 of the East Texas Historical Journal, Stephen Ambrose's Citizen Soldiers, or his appearance in Moyers' television documentary, "D-Day to the Rhine," will expect another war memoir. It is, but it's much more than that.

Lale begins his story in Shawnee, Oklahoma, with the queasy consequences of his first puff, at age three or four, on his father's pipe. Eighty years later, his recollection of early Oklahoma adventures that included milking cows, the misery of the depression, schoolboy pranks, airplane rides in a World War I Jenny, hitchhiking to Oklahoma University, his secret marriage to Georgiana Aspley, and his first job as a reporter, is remarkable.

More important are the wonderful words Lale chose to relate those adventures. In a day when college graduates have problems making subjects and verbs in a sentence agree, he manages to draw from his extensive vocabulary the words necessary to paint a rich verbal picture of the fascinating life of what Ambrose would call "an ordinary man."

A couple of years after his Reserve Officers Training Corps experience at the University of Oklahoma, Lale entered the U.S. Army, reporting first to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio. He was good at the task assigned him - gunnery training officer - so it was 1944 before he met the European enemy as the executive officer under an unnamed but thoroughly disagreeable colonel. The man was so unprofessional in fact that Lale briefly considered talking to the inspector general about his superior's conduct.

Rather than rely on memories now fifty years old, as he recounted the Battle of the Bulge and the march to the Rhine River, Lale, chose to quote or paraphrase letters he had written to Georgiana from France, Belgium, and
Germany – letters she had preserved carefully until her death in 1982.

In March 1945, Lale predicted “an early collapse of German forces in the West … If our advance continues, and the Russians are able to get to Berlin, it shouldn’t be long.” He was only two months off in his prediction.

All his recollections were not of battles and blood.

“In Nenderoth we established a civil government by taking a civilian off the streets and telling him, ‘You are the Burgermeister,’” Lale wrote. “His instructions were to see that all arms were turned over to us. The next morning we accepted fancy fowling pieces, handguns, and ancient weapons which today would make any museum proud.”

Lale’s first job following war’s end was at the Marshall News Messenger. Also on staff at the time was Lloyd Mae “Cissy” Stewart. Her friendship with the Lales continued for thirty-five years. Some fifteen months after Georgiana’s death, she became the second Mrs. Max Lale, and was one of those who pushed Max to complete his memoirs and find a publisher. It is her photograph of Max, taken at the site in France where Germany formally surrendered, that was chosen for the book’s cover.

If there is any adverse criticism of Lale’s book, it is that its creation, over some four years, allowed for repetition of a thought or occurrence. It doesn’t happen often, and good editing by publisher Eakin Press would have found the duplication.

That, however, is not the major criticism to be leveled at Eakin Press. There is no note on the cover that Bill Moyers wrote the foreword. Moyers averages dozens of requests a year for either a foreword or a review of an upcoming book – many coming from writers as well known as Moyers himself. Normally, Moyers’ answer is “No.” So the fact that the answer to Max was “Yes” was reason enough to make note of it on the cover or with Eakin Press’s publicity about the book. The eloquence of Moyers’ tribute to his friend is another, better reason.

Gail K Beil
Marshall, Texas


At last, Linda S. Hudson has written a definitive biography about Jane McManus Storm Cazneau, who speculated in Texas land before it was a republic, became a journalist for the *United States Magazine and Democratic*
Review and for the New York Sun, traveled to Mexico City on a peace mission during the Mexican War, and promoted revolutions in Mexico, Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

The central theme of her life and work, Hudson explains, was the "Manifest Destiny" of the United States — a phrase Cazneau originated to describe a policy of territorial expansion to the Pacific Ocean and beyond. Cazneau wrote columns in at least six metropolitan newspapers, articles in three national journals, fifteen books, numerous pamphlets, and edited five or more newspapers and journals. Many of her publications were unsigned. She used a variety of by-lines but was best known as “Cora Montgomery.” Her death made front-page news in New York newspapers when she died in 1878.

So why has she not been the subject of a definitive biography until now? Jane Cazneau was a woman born nearly 200 years before her time. Heroines of the Texas Revolution almost all can be called long suffering. Cazneau’s life sounds like the script from a contemporary sit-com. No portraits of her have been found, but she is described as petite, with a dark complexion — one grandmother may have been an American Indian — and violet eyes.

Jane was born in Rensselaer County, New York, in 1807, and educated at a Litchfield, Connecticut, boarding school. Her father, William McManus, represented Rensselaer County in Congress for one term, 1825-1827. Jane married Allen B. Storm in 1825, and the following year gave birth to a son, William McManus Stonn. By 1832, Jane had resumed using her maiden name and Storm had disappeared. Jane McManus was a single, apparently divorced, working mother, and by some accounts the twenty-six year old mistress of seventy-six year old Aaron Burr, former vice president of the United States best known for his duel with Alexander Hamilton.

As early as 1831, Jane and Burr worked to obtain large tracts of land in Mexican Texas for her McManus family at little expense. Jane was employed by Anthony Dey, who formed the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company to promote European settlement on some thirteen million acres covering twenty present-day East Texas counties. Jane and her younger brother, Robert McManus, sailed from New Orleans to Mexican Texas in December 1832. It was the first of nine trips to Texas that Jane made between 1832 and 1849. Some sources claim the Mexican government granted Jane McManus eleven leagues of land, but she lacked the finances to move her German settlers to the designated colony and her land speculation in Texas failed.

The failure did not dim her enthusiasm for Texas. When the Texas Revolution began in 1836, Jane wrote: “I cannot bear arms for my adopted country — but if the interest I possess in her soil, will be guarantee for any money, I will with joy contribute my mite to the purchase of arms for her brave defenders.” Later, her columns in the New York Sun helped swing public opinion in the United States in favor of the annexation of the Republic of Texas.

Jane McManus married William Leslie Cazneau in 1849. Cazneau was a
politician and a soldier who was a member of the guard that escorted the prisoner Santa Anna to Galveston after the Battle of San Jacinto. Jane and her new husband were close friends of Mirabeau B. Lamar, second president of the Republic of Texas, and Lamar dedicated a volume of poetry to Jane.

Jane and Cazneau founded the town of Eagle Pass, and in 1852 she used the experience there for a book, *Eagle Pass; or Life on the Border*. During the Mexican War, Jane was authorized by President James K. Polk to play an important part in a peace mission to Mexico City, nearly a century before a woman was appointed to the United States Foreign Service.

Linda Hudson's scholarly biography of Cazneau lists her newspaper articles, giving details such as date, place, and topic of each, as well as a table of textual analysis of Jane's publications—a contribution of modern computers to historical research. The impressive bibliography stretches over twenty-eight pages, followed by forty-five pages of notes plus a detailed index. The Ottis Lock Research Grant from the East Texas Historical Association and the John H. Jenkins Research Fellowship from the Texas State Historical Association helped fund necessary travel for Hudson's research. Hudson is professor of history at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall and past president of the East Texas Historical Association.

The only major disappointment in this book is the jacket—a reproduction of John Gast's oil *American Progress*, featuring a classically draped female figure with flowing golden hair. That won't matter in a couple of years when *Mistress of Manifest Destiny* should become a PBS television series, produced by someone of the stature of David Grubin, whose monumental series on Napoleon recently earned him an Emmy award. Or the book could become a Steven Spielberg movie—it is time the noted director gave equal attention to feminine heroes.

Cissy Stewart Lale
Fort Worth and Marshall, Texas


Jo Ella Powell Exley researched and wrote for sixteen years on the Indian captive Cynthia Ann Parker and her family. Exley visited the places mentioned in the book and presents the reader with a view of the landscape as well as the times. Using church and family records, diaries, reminiscences, and interviews, plus books and articles on Baptists and Indian captives, Exley meticulously documents and brings to life a Texas pioneer family and its most famous members, Cynthia Ann and Quanah Parker.
In five parts, Exley places five generations of Parkers in the context of their times as they migrated from Virginia to Georgia to Tennessee to Illinois and to Texas. Exley opens with the Pre-destination, foot-washing Baptist, Elder John. The saga continues with Daniel, the fanatic who disseminated the Two-Seed doctrine and anti-missionary movement. He led his family to Texas in December 1833. Daniel’s son, James, and the family members that built Fort Parker near the falls of the Brazos in Limestone County, were massacred and kidnapped by Indians in May 1836. Exley allows granddaughter Rachel Parker Plummer, a married and pregnant woman with a small child, to tell much of her captive ordeal as she roamed five states. The reader travels with Rachel’s father, James, in his mental anguish, physical torment, and relentless quest to rescue his daughter and granddaughter from the Comanches. Rachel was ransomed in 1838; James, broken in health and spirit, gave up on finding Cynthia Ann in 1845. Parts four and five make up the last half of the book and tell the tragic story of Cynthia Ann and her son Quanah, chief of the last Comanche band to surrender. This book is a must for those interested in Texas Baptists, the frontier, the revolution, captives, or Indians.

Linda S. Hudson
East Texas Baptist University


For historians of the nineteenth-century Southwest, Colonel Joseph King Fenno Mansfield’s inspection reports of military posts are the bread-and-butter research documents on the region. Less well known is Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Eggleston Johnston’s inspections of forts in Texas and New Mexico immediately prior to the Civil War.

Of the two inspectors, Johnston is best known for his role in the Civil War in command of the Confederate army in Virginia until he was wounded before Richmond in 1862, and in 1863-1865, when he twice commanded the Army of Tennessee against General William Tecumseh Sherman’s much larger Army of the Tennessee.

Thanks to Jerry Thompson, who has edited these inspection reports with copious and apt footnotes, scholars of the region’s history now have a superb documentary collection to which they can refer.

Of the two inspections, Mansfield’s is superior with more detail and excellent sketches of most of the forts which have been reproduced in the text. Johnston’s opinions concerning the competence, or lack thereof, of various
officers and units, are more acerbic, while Mansfield's tend to be gentler.

Interestingly given the imminence of the Civil War, little of the tension in either New Mexico or Texas comes through in either set of reports. The one major exception is Mansfield’s comments concerning the commander of the Department of Texas, Brigadier General David E. Twiggs. Colonel Mansfield noted with thinly veiled sarcasm that Twiggs had released prisoners who had been convicted by a general court martial back into their units. Mansfield suggested that this probably was not a good idea for good discipline. Twiggs later surrendered all of the forts, munitions, and entire units throughout Texas to Confederate organizers.

Finally, Thompson provides an excellent conclusion that describes Mansfield’s and Johnson’s subsequent military careers and a marvelous appendix which identifies officers mentioned in the reports with brief information on their later careers and when they died.

Louis R. Sadler
New Mexico State University


Lizzie and Will survived the Civil War – but, not without cost!

Erika L. Murr used Elizabeth S. and William G. Neblett’s diary and letters to tell the story of their marriage, the birth of their children, and their lives during the Civil War. At first, I did not care for Lizzie, who seemed to be the biggest “whiner” in Texas – certainly a far cry from the stereotypical image of the “can-do” Texas frontier woman!

However, Murr skillfully expanded her story through seven chapters: “The Coming Pains of Labor,” “Tied to the House by a Crying Young One,” “Working for Negroes and Children,” “No Sympathy From the Curious World,” “A Bare Living & a Grave,” and “Pray That God May Grant Us Peace.” Interestingly, these titles refer to both the progress of the war and the expansion of Will and Lizzie’s family.

One factor that makes Murr’s book a treasure is that the Neblett Papers contain letters from both Lizzie and Will during the war years. This gives the reader the home viewpoint as well as the soldier’s viewpoint – a rare component in most letter collections. A second factor is the changes the war years wrought in both Lizzie and Will. Lizzie started out being a naive Grimes County woman who had been raised as a Southern Belle. She married for love and hoped for a bright future. However, that was not to be. Lizzie had a dark
side to her character and succumbed to depression that robbed her of many of life’s pleasures. She was petrified of pregnancy and childbirth, yet had six children. Will’s first letters show a man reluctant to voice his heart’s desires. However, by 1864 he is much more vocal in praising Lizzie and encouraging her to shake off her depression.

_A Rebel Wife in Texas_ is a jewel and Erika L. Murr is to be congratulated on her fine work with these primary documents.

Beverly J. Rowe
Texarkana, Texas

_The Letters of John Wesley Hardin_, Roy and Jo Ann Stamps, transcribers and compilers (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 2001.


The growing body of literature about the notorious Texas gunfighter John Wesley Hardin has been supplemented richly by a volume of his correspondence. Roy and Jo Ann Stamps, residents of southern California, learned of a distant kinship with Hardin. While researching this fascinating mankiller, they discovered that a considerable amount of his correspondence is on file in the special collections of Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Most of the letters to and from Hardin were written during his fifteen-year confinement at Huntsville. His prison record is included, along with quotations from his autobiography. By publishing 281 items, the Stamps have provided readers with new insights into Hardin’s attitudes and the sad plight of family members cut off from an imprisoned loved one.

In long letters to his wife, whom he had left penniless and homeless, convict Hardin protests endlessly at the injustice of his confinement while offering maudlin platitudes about how she should instruct their three children with moral values that he had ignored during his wild years as a gambler-drunkard-shootist. The same themes abound in letters to his son and two daughters. But in an 1889 letter to his fifteen-year-old son, who was supporting his mother and sisters by farm labor, an unreformed Hardin asserts that if sufficiently provoked, under “the laws of your country and the laws of God … you have a perfect right to kill.” This fatherly advice continued with instruction about tactics: “… don’t make any threats but just quietly get your gun and double barrel let it be a good gun have no other kind, and go a gunning for the enemy of mankind, and when you find him just deliberately Shoot him down like you would a mad dog or a wild beast.” (p. 218)

Punctuation, spelling, and grammar remain in original form, adding to the flavor of the letters. It is pertinent that Hardin was born and raised in East Texas, that many of his shootouts occurred in this region, and that a number of his correspondents resided in nineteenth-century East Texas communities.
Although more editorial information would have been helpful throughout the book, this volume is a welcome addition to gunfighter lore.

Bill O'Neal
Panola College


Charles M. Robinson III, author of numerous books dealing with Texas, the Civil War, and Native Americans, explores the life and military career of General George Crook. Crook, born in Ohio in 1828 and educated at West Point, started his military career in California guarding the surveying expedition for the transcontinental railroad until the outbreak of the Civil War. During the Civil War Crook’s successes earned him some recognition and promotion to the rank of brigadier general. At the end of the war Crook resumed his service in the frontier army in Oregon. While there he established a lasting peace between the Indians and settlers in the territory. This peace came about through Crook’s unusual treatment of Indians as equal to whites. Crook continued his success in Arizona and the Dakotas while pushing his idea that Indians should be defined as persons and enjoy the same civil rights as the rest of the citizens of the United States in federal courts. The general’s fight for better treatment for Indians did not end until his death in 1890.

Robinson succeeded in portraying both the good and bad aspects of Crook’s life and the general’s attempt “to advance the cause of the Indian as a human being” (xix). The author filled the book with numerous small stories that connected Crook’s life to the overall history of the frontier and Indian relations in the United States. Robinson brings the problem-riddled career of General Crook to life.

Charles Grear
Texas Christian University


Valuable contributions to understanding steamboat traffic west of Shreveport have been made by Jacques D. Bagur through this encyclopedic

Bagur applies professional research experience, intimate knowledge of navigation, and uncanny deduction to a survey of the Cypress Valley from the 1700s to the present. As an active participant in feasibility studies of navigation along Cypress Bayou since 1990, he has been a central figure in pinpointing sites of the *Mittie Stephens* wreck, the Robert Potter homestead on Caddo Lake, and the Alabama Indian village on Potter’s Point.

Bagur’s clear narrative and painstaking research far exceed his goals of examining water transportation and the socioeconomic factors that affected it in Northwestern Louisiana, East Texas, and the Red River. Dominant lakes on steamboat routes were Soda, Shiftail, Clear, Caddo, and Cross, with varying and multiple names. From incomplete newspaper files and other sources, he lists 324 steamboats known to have made trips along the route and another twenty-six strongly believed to have done so. The list includes year, port, type, tons, and dimensions.

Through admirable detective tactics, Bagur establishes March 1845 as the year the first steamboat, the *Lama*, reached Jefferson. He provides rich chronologies for each year between 1845 and the demise of steamboating along the route. As steamboat prosperity ended with the advent of railroad competition, Bagur provides a table of congressional appropriations between 1872 and 1918 that supported the Cypress Bayou and waterway project. He concludes with an account of the Shreveport-to-Daingerfield navigation effort of the Corps of Engineer during the 1990s. Planning ceased when the Corps declared it “infeasible on economic and environmental grounds.”

This monumental book, sponsored by the Cypress Valley Navigation District, is a positive outcome of the abandoned project.

Fred Tarpley
Texas A&M University-Commerce


Retired architect, planner, and Texas A&M professor Gordon Echols has produced a sweeping review of Texas buildings, mostly residences and mostly from the mid nineteenth century. Featured examples represent a pioneering era in Texas that ranged roughly from the 1830s Republic through the 1880s, just as railroads penetrated great distances into the state. From the sophisticated
1839 Stephen Blount House in San Augustine to stark shelters collected at the Ranching Heritage Center in Lubbock, from the 1876 Sinai Hebrew Synagogue in Jefferson to the 1830s San Raphael Chapel in Rondando, Jim Hogg County, Echols selected a catalog of architectural elegance and serenity barely influenced by the industrial age.

Bookstores and on-line catalogs desperately need a current title demonstrating to students and newcomers the intriguing progression of nineteenth-century Texas architecture. While the quality of photo composition and reproduction in Echols’ new book pales in comparison to Blake Alexander’s and Todd Webb’s classic *Texas Homes of the 19th Century* (University of Texas Press, 1966), that volume is now thirty-five years old and out of print. Those with a copy featuring Alexander’s educating prose and Webb’s large-format photos will enjoy comparing the condition of common examples after a third of a century. The late-1830s Half-Way (James B. Johnson) House at Chireno has been uprooted twice in the last decade and barely survives; the 1850 Stagecoach Inn (Tavern) at Chappell Hill has thankfully been rescued and restored.

Echols ventured deep into the Rio Grande Valley for fine colonial examples along the Laredo to Brownsville camino, while Alexander and Webb covered little south of San Antonio. Yet Alexander and Webb braved to reveal the Victorian story of the late nineteenth century, not yet nostalgic in the 1960s, while Echols describes it with few examples as a style that “perhaps least reflects a decidedly Texan form of architecture” (p. 9). That’s a contradictory summary coming from an obvious standard-bearer for the Greek Revival, which had no more to do with Texas than the Anglo Southerners who brought it here from somewhere else.

Beyond filling a current space in available literature, Echols’ and TCU’s offering is perplexing and frustrating. The book is organized into five regional chapters, yet the only two sketch maps provided, “Eleven Geographic Regions of Texas” (p. 3), and “Five Settlement Regions” (p. 4), display independent divisions not exactly reflected in the text. This is a coffee table book, pure and simple, with a striking cover of maroon and black; it offers no pretext of assisting the mobile observer of Texas architecture through location maps or addresses. The author has drawn heavily from prior documentation and scholarship of the National Register (misnamed Registry) of Historic Places and the Historic American Buildings Survey, yet these sources and others are barely acknowledged, with no explanation of their own pioneering work in documenting many examples in the book.

Better organization and better editing should not have been lost to production budgets or oversights on such a book. An empty space still remains on the Texas architecture shelf, waiting for fresh research augmented with floor plans and site plans, state-of-the-art printing, and guidance for visiting these remarkable places in person.

Jim W. Steely
Austin, Texas

Walter L. Buenger explodes the myth that only FDR’s New Deal programs of the 1930s allowed Northeast Texas, an area more culturally Southern than most parts of the Lone Star state, to escape poverty and identify itself with the Nation’s future rather than the Confederate past. The Path To A Modern South: Northeast Texas Between Reconstruction And The Great Depression persuades the reader that Northeast Texas began its ascent from poverty and Confederate mythology long before the 1930s. The region’s five-decade minor adjustment of its economy, its politics, and its society enabled it to take full advantage of the sweeping changes offered by the New Deal and World War II.

The greater depth and breadth of Buenger’s theme moves far beyond earlier writers’ more confined examinations, bringing into focus the major, interconnected relationships of race, gender, business, and politics with admirable clarity. A single example will suffice here. This work is the first that fully inquires into, and competently reveals, the integral association of banking reform and the development of major railroads and the lumber industry which created the Northeast Texas timber boom from 1880 to 1910. This integrated assault on Southern yellow pine assisted the modernization of the material culture and industrial networks of the region, linking it to the state and the rest of nation. One inevitable side effect was the destruction of the first-growth-forested woodlands of Northeast Texas.

Buenger cogently argues that Texas, because of its increasing alignment with the nation resulting from its fifty-year change from poverty to modernization, became more modern than the rest of the South in the area of women’s rights and offered greater social and economic mobility for its lower white classes. And, although horrific examples of racial brutality are noted by Buenger, racial violence in the region was less common than in other areas of the South.

The writer’s style and structure works well in the telling of the story. Considering the breadth of the subject, the history reads smoothly. The research is voluminous. Sources include area newspapers, oral interviews, manuscript collections, memoirs and autobiography, local histories, and agricultural studies. This reviewer believes that Buenger has captured a vital, missing aspect of Texas history between Reconstruction and the Great Depression. This reviewer also believes that every historian and layman interested in the history of Texas should have on his shelf The Path To A Modern South: Northeast Texas Between Reconstruction And The Great Depression.

Melvin C. Johnson
Stephen F. Austin State University

This collection of essays allows the reader to see Southern politics as it unfolded after the Civil War. In the preface C. Vann Woodward commented that most Southern historians have omitted some of the racial problems faced in the South by freed blacks and that this collection would attempt to remedy this failing. Until recently most Southern historians focused only on people who had held the power and made the laws – the whites. Emancipation led to changes in the social makeup of Southern society which created racial tensions and hatreds that lasted for well over a century.

These essays look at different aspects of the African Americans' lives and the restrictions placed upon them. No specific date can be attributed to the beginnings of the Jim Crow system, but, it kept the South separated for years. Southern politics kept African Americans from obtaining equality, but they found ways to resist white domination. This book lived up to Woodward's expectation. It admirably describes the trials and turmoils of the African Americans. This is a remarkable book for anyone who is a Southern historian, politician, or simply likes to read about the past.

Donna C. West
Sacul, Texas


This volume contains data, arranged alphabetically by county, giving agricultural information about crops planted, livestock raised, and other interesting information. No population census is included, but there is a comparison between the figures for 1880 and 1887. The number of males and females is given, as well as ethnic diversity of the area. For instance, Nacogdoches County had 10,192 "Americans," 3,346 colored; four English; seventy-three German; nine French; fourteen Irish; three Italian; 374 Mexican; twenty Polish; ten Russians; and twelve from all other nations.

Figures include the number of bee stands, pounds of honey produced, tons of cottonseed, and number of acres planted in various crops. It was interesting to note that Rusk County produced grapes and wine in 1887.
Population totals for the towns in each county are given, and the school population and number of schoolhouses is included. Average wages of teachers revealed that white male teachers were paid $40.42 per month, while females received $33.66.

Yearly totals of the number of marriages, divorces, births, and deaths are given for each county. Organizational dates are provided and the person for whom the county was named is identified. The number of square miles in the county is listed, as is the average price per acre. Value of livestock is listed and the number and variety of animals slaughtered is included. The denomination of churches in the area give a detailed view of religious activity.

This volume is full of fascinating and valuable information about each county. It supplies cultural information and living conditions throughout the state, which complements the data given in population census records. Each library in the state would benefit from having a copy of this work in its collection.

Carolyn Reeves Ericson
Nacogdoches, Texas


This book was published originally in 1909 with the title Twelve Years in the Saddle for Law and Order on the Frontiers of Texas. This is a valuable reprinting of an obscure and rather well written series of interesting “Texas Ranger” tales by a former member of the Frontier Battalion, Sergeant John L. Sullivan. The author lived only two years after the book’s publication, dying in 1911 at age sixty.

Sullivan was born in Winston County, Mississippi, in 1851. He was an orphan at eight years old and found himself living in Arkansas with a hard taskmaster, the father-in-law of his stepfather. He and his brother ran away and were raised by the families of several Confederate soldiers who befriended them.

In 1871 Sullivan went up the Chisholm Trail with a cattle herd to Ellsworth, then worked for some time as a cowboy, but little else is known of his life before April 1889, when he enlisted in Company B of the Frontier Battalion. Sullivan was an easy man to pick out in a group because he was the only Ranger among thirty-four who wore a full beard in that famous photo of those assigned to prevent the Mayer-Fitzsimmons fight.

Near the first sentence of his book, Sullivan tells his readers that this is
not a story of his life, but rather a collection of twenty-five "exciting experiences" in which he played a lead role during his twelve years with the Frontier Battalion. Included are a number of poems, songs, and letters. These twenty-five short stories are why you want to read the book, although the reader would have been better served if a date had been included in each story indicating when it took place.

Regardless, I found most of the stories interesting and the collection gives the reader a broad view of the activities of a "Texas Ranger" after the Texas frontier largely had disappeared. John L. Sullivan ended his Ranger career after twelve-years of service, in 1901, when he shot himself in the leg and spent the rest of his life crippled and in pain.

Allen G. Hatley
La Grange, Texas


Recently an article appeared in the Beaumont Enterprise telling about a taxidermist who visited area churches and talked about the evils of alcohol. Trained birds helped illustrate his message. A cockatoo would walk a tight rope to show how one should "walk the straight and narrow" and a macaw would fly into a toy casket and "play dead" near empty beer and whiskey bottles. The talk always concluded with the taxidermist saying, "I told you it would kill you!"

Finding the article amusing, I also was reminded of another unusual tactic demonstrated one afternoon in 1903 by Beaumonter George W. Carroll. As a dedicated Baptist and political activist, Carroll, alarmed by the degrading conditions created by Spindletop, shaved his beard, threw on some old clothes, and marched into a Beaumont saloon. He climbed onto a billiard table and announced to all who he was. While this incident had little impact on the saloon and gambling community at the time and was out-of-character for the mild-mannered Carroll, it demonstrated his fervent fight against what he considered to be the elements of sin. Although he lost his bid as the Prohibition Party candidate for Texas governor in 1902 and United States vice-president in 1904, Carroll co-founded a Texas chapter of the Anti-Saloon League in 1907 and continued the "good fight" until his death in 1935.

More than the story of Carroll's quest to improve the moral fabric of society, however, this book portrays his role as a successful businessman involved in lumber and oil activities and offers glimpses into the lives of some of Beaumont's most prominent families. It also touches on the political and social issues of the times and highlights Carroll's connections with other
Well-documented and precisely written, anyone interested in the history of southeast Texas would enjoy this book.

Wanda Landrey
Beaumont, Texas


Some may boast of prowess bold,
Of the school they think so grand,
But there's a spirit that can ne'er be told,
It's the spirit of Aggieland.

Texas A&M University is one of the nation’s leading universities academically, but it stands above other universities in one aspect – the spirit of Aggieland. Adams explains that spirit began 125 years ago with the Corps of Cadets.

Young men arrived at Texas A&M, never having been away from their homes, to face rigorous military discipline and academic work. Early Aggies lived a spartan existence in dormitories located on a remote, barren prairie. Under such trying conditions, they developed a tightly knit “fraternity” – a brotherhood – that would become the spirit of Aggieland.

Adams points out that rapid turnover of faculty and presidents, poor financial support from the legislature, and an unstable enrollment caused Texas A&M to lead a fragile existence during its first twenty-five years. It was President Sul Ross who brought about the financial and academic stability that insured the continuation of the university.

Texas A&M contributed more officers to World War I and World War II than any other institution, earning it national recognition. Following World War II, Texas A&M was guided through a transitional period by President Earl Rudder. As Adams explains, only Rudder’s prestige, popularity, and influence could have brought about monumental changes during the 1960s and early 1970s: the transition to a co-educational institution; optional military training; and expanded academic programs, with major emphasis on graduate training and research. Rudder increased funding from the legislature and ushered in an unprecedented period of growth in the physical plant.

President Rudder recognized the importance of sustaining time-honored traditions and maintaining the Spirit of Aggieland, and he wisely placed that responsibility in the hands of the Corps of Cadets.
This is a splendidly written book and I like the writing style. Adams has researched his topic well and has provided an excellent bibliography. Along with facts, figures, and historical events, he interjects anecdotes that make the reading lively and interesting. I strongly recommend the book. For former students of Texas A&M, it is a must; for historians, it is an excellent history of Texas A&M; and for others, perhaps it will contribute to a better understanding of "the spirit that can ne'er be told" – the spirit of Aggieland.

Jack D. McCullough
Stephen F. Austin State University


How argue against success? Especially the successful allied landing on June 6, 1944, on the Normandy coast.

Because my own four campaigns in Europe did not include D-Day, I have no vested interest in attacking or defending either the planning or the tactical decisions made on that "longest day" in American military history.

Not so this author, however. Lewis, a retired Army major and now an assistant professor of history at the University of North Texas, would have preferred a perfect battle instead of the one which led to a lodgment on the continent and eventually the destruction of Hitler's Third Reich.

In his first chapter, Lewis recites all the problems that beset the effort – the load of gear carried by individual soldiers, rough seas, fixed obstacles, swamped vehicles – leading him to conclude that "in fact, the plan for the conduct of the battle had failed" (p. 10).

I write this forty years and two days after the infamous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. There, a rag-tag force of 1,500 men went up against Castro's army of more than 100,000. They were allowed little air cover and landed far from a dense population thought to be home to thousands who would rise up in support.

Now there was real failure.

Few if any military analysts would minimize the difficulties encountered on Omaha Beach. Most, I suspect, would count them among the unknowns once the senior strategists have committed their plan to execution, from which point they are helpless – except for retreat.

Subsequent chapters after the first deal with joint-fire planning, joint and combined operations, and British and American visions of amphibious
doctrines, all of them aspects of the battle which inevitability led toward compromise.

Lewis’ complaint is against the big-picture planners: “one of the stated reasons for landing during the hours of daylight, the need for navigational accuracy, was negated in the movement phase – that phase of attack with the greatest potential for confusion and error” (p. 207).

He faults also the brief duration of a thirty-minute preparation by bombers and naval artillery, comparing this phase of the battle, less convincingly, on the part of both Army and Marine Corps experience in the Pacific Theater. Though perhaps no less firmly defended, the outcome was less dependent on surprise that in France, where German reinforcements in the Pas de Calais might have been brought to bear against a handful of American and British divisions.

In his concluding chapter, Lewis undercuts in some degree his argument about the faults he finds in the way the battle was fought. He writes, “Between 1940 and 1944, the armed forces of the United States began operation in World War II a dearth of doctrine…. Between 1940 and 1944, the armed forces learned the hard way by trial and error.”, (p. 255).

The author manfully lists an extensive collection of citations in notes totaling fifty-eight pages that are heavily weighed toward official documents and impressive bibliography. Graduate students will applaud.

Nevertheless, well clear of the “fog of war” which besets the journeyman warrior on the ground, the author apparently believes in hindsight that the battle on Omaha Beach should have – not could have – been a perfect battle. I do not buy it.

Max S. Lale
Marshall and Fort Worth, Texas
organizations which have collected and preserved the history of their counties enabled Alexander to corroborate many military stories and "legends." This local flavor, along with a brief history of each town, greatly enhanced this book.

The author's methodology makes reading easy because he discusses each base, beginning with a brief history of the town in Texas where it was located. These include Pecos (Pecos Army Airfield), Sweetwater (Avenger Field), Amarillo (Amarillo Army Airfield), Greenville (Majors Airfield), Waco (Waco Army Airfield), San Antonio (Randolph Field), Harlingen (Harlingen Army Airfield), and Pyote (Rattlesnake Bomber Base). Reminiscent of railroad building days, each town was eager to accommodate the federal government in placing a base near them to help with their depressed economies. Much like the mining frontier, some towns "boomed" during the war years and become ghost towns by the 1950s. Each base has extraordinary personal stories and incidents, but generally all had the same story in terms of establishment and closure. Of great value are the appendices of formerly restricted United States Army Air Force Information Sheets of Statistics on each base and photos and specifications of the major aircraft flown on these bases.

What could possibly be a common denominator among women, rattlesnakes, Hollywood, the Taj Mahal, the "City of Waco, Texas," "mother-in-law of the Army," the Waco blackout, the Aquilas Aztecas, and big, bright Texas stars? You will certainly enjoy finding out!

Linda Cross
Tyler, Texas


Dusty wind-swept west Texas is the setting for this work that deals with the obscure story of the incarceration of Italian prisoners of war during World War II. A camp was established in late 1942 in the small town of Hereford to contain Italians captured in North Africa. By April 1943, the sole purpose of the camp was to house Italian POWs who refused to abandon Fascism. Known as "Mussolini men," these hard-core non-collaborators were kept in isolation and some proved to be stentorian in their defiance of their captors. However, a certain group of the prisoners responded when given the opportunity to paint Biblical scenes in the drab interior of St. Mary's Church in nearby Umbarger.

Many of the events that transpired in the Hereford camp, as well as painting the ceiling and walls of St. Mary's, are revealed through the letters and interviews of a prisoner named Franco Di Bello. From the beginning of
his incarceration this officer was a stubborn non-collaborator who remained uncooperative with his captors virtually throughout his time as a POW. Though quite vocal in complaining about overall treatment of the prisoners, he nonetheless chose to be stoically silent during a situation in which the camp commandant, a Colonel Carvolth, decided to reduce the prisoners' rations. This occurred near the end of the European phase of the war. Because of the horrors of Nazi atrocities that were just becoming common knowledge to the American public, Colonel Carvolth took it upon himself to punish the Italian non-collaborators to "get even" for sins committed by his prisoners' Nazi counterparts in Europe. Later the prisoners bitterly remembered these months in the summer and autumn of 1945 as the time of la fame (the hunger).

A Catholic bishop who visited the camp was appalled at the sight of the emaciated prisoners and began efforts to alleviate their discomfort. His concern, coupled with the desire of the rector of St. Mary's to adorn the dun-colored interior with murals depicting Biblical scenes, culminated in Di Bello and several other prisoners volunteering to complete the project. The results are still visible in St. Mary's today. In return for their efforts, these non-collaborators were fed daily by women volunteers and occasionally managed to sneak leftovers to other prisoners in the camp.

Through numerous interviews with former residents of the area and prisoners who were held at the camp, as well as by conducting painstaking research into letters, diaries, and government documents, Donald Mace Williams has developed a simple but compelling story that brings together the prisoners, their guards, and the civilian population of the two small towns, including members of the local clergy. The interactions of this strange mix remind us that compassion exists in varied and sundry forms and they take the reader back to a unique and nearly forgotten period of Texas history.

Mark Choate
Austin, Texas

Brown, Not White: School Integration and the Chicano Movement in Houston,

When most Americans think of school desegregation, they focus on the Brown decision in 1954 and the struggle of African Americans to dismantle the segregated public school system. Professor San Miguel correctly refocuses our attention to the efforts of Mexican Americans to achieve equality in education, an effort that paralleled, and in some instances predated, the African American struggle. San Miguel examines the confluence between the school integration movement and the emergence of the Chicano political movement in Houston.
in the 1970s, and the impact that this had both on the effort to desegregate the public schools and on the development of Mexican American identity and political power. He argues that the school integration movement caused Mexican American leaders to abandon their moderate, integrationist political agenda for an agenda that was increasingly militant and based largely on the assertion of a distinctive Mexican American identity.

San Miguel divides his study into three sections. The first traces the history of the Mexican American Community in Houston and its early efforts to organize itself and assert political power. This discussion describes the Mexican American campaign to integrate area schools in the 1930s and 1940s using the strategy that Mexican American were "white" and that to segregate them violated state and federal law. In the second section, San Miguel discusses the radicalization of Mexican American political leadership in the 1960s and emerging crisis in the Houston schools as authorities grappled with desegregation. The final section, which comprises over half the book, details the confrontation between school leadership and the Mexican American community during and immediately following the 1970-1971 school year. As school authorities attempted to "desegregate" schools by using "white" Mexican Americans to integrate African American schools, Mexican American leaders abandoned their earlier position, demanded that they be recognized as a separate ethnic group, and insisted that school desegregation must accommodate three groups – black, white, and brown.

San Miguel does an excellent job analyzing the emergence of Mexican Americans as a political force in Houston. His discussion of the early years of the community is very informative, while his detailed analysis of the dramatic events of 1970-1971 draws attention to a significant turning point in the history of the city and its increasingly diverse population.

Cary D. Wintz
Texas Southern University

Ethnicity in the Sunbelt: Mexican Americans in Houston, Arnoldo De León

In 1989, San Angelo State University historian Arnoldo De León published his well-received book, Ethnicity in the Sunbelt: Mexican Americans in Houston. In this book he "sought to determine historical flux in ethnic identity and culture, offer a framework for viewing the process of Chicano community building, and explain class formation and differentiation within the Houston Hispanic community" (p.vii). Using an obvious and viable chronological approach, De León covered a century of community building in Houston by
focusing on the first migrants to 1930, the growth of the Mexican American community during the crises of Depression and World War II, and postwar racism and discrimination. De León’s analysis of the period after 1960, entitled “Many Mexicos,” was especially significant and thought provoking.

This new edition of De León’s study adds to the previous publication by including an historiographical preface and a final chapter covering the decade of the 1990s. In this well-conceived revision, he brought in noteworthy concepts based on new literature and research since publication of the original book. As before, this book is an example of a mature scholar, one who uses meticulous research, knowledge of the topic, familiarity with the literature, awareness of the issues, the ability to define and explain, and an aptitude for developing new approaches and theories. In his salient last sentence, De León is at his finest when he concludes, “…ethnicity, it seems, can be consciously preserved if individuals regard their homeland heritage as dear as the country they serve” (p. 251). De León’s *Ethnicity in the Sunbelt* is a must read.

Bruce A. Glasrud
Sul Ross State University


*We can be ethical only in relation to something we can see, feel, understand, love, or otherwise have faith in.*


In this extraordinary, elegant, posthumously published work, Jeanne Norsworthy takes her readers on a journey much farther than that from the Big Thicket to the Big Bend. My wife and I first learned of Norsworthy when we stopped years ago at Fort Leaton on our way out of a Solitario shut up. A lady in the gift shop asked where we were from, and when we declared “Uncertain,” she told us of her friend Jeanne who had just left for there from her ranch on Fresno Creek. Norsworthy called Caddo Lake in East Texas a “healing place.” As we now also have a cabin in the Davis Mountains of the Big Bend, we know the physical journey well, and delight in the biological richness of the areas Norsworthy describes so evocatively.

However, hers is a multi-dimensional journey, not just through the biodiverse landscapes and aesthetically rewarding revelations of her art, but through even more enriching insights into the psychologically restorative power of nature, her spirituality, and finally into her own poetic Land Ethic. Norsworthy wrote and illustrated this book while she fought breast cancer and
confronted other major life challenges. She, like Leopold, wrote for all humankind: “Benign vastness holds me in its hand, Reconnects me to all the unseen known, unknown and forgotten” (p.101).

Norsworthy has made more accessible those qualities in nature that Leopold knew needed interpretation through “successive stages of the beautiful and values as yet uncaptured by language.” Norsworthy, in fact, takes us through these stages with her brush, her word processor, and her poet’s pen. She enthralls with Ivory Bills, shamans, a rare aurora borealis, and the release of her inner Golden Eagles. You’ll never forget the malignant catfish lurking in foreboding cypress roots.

Her work illuminates arcane concepts such as Edward O. Wilson’s biophilia hypothesis and presages the consequences of new National Institutes of Health research into the psychological effects of natural environments, including the effect of nature on people with serious illnesses. One NIH study involves a group of women in the early stages of breast cancer.

Norsworthy helps the reader see, feel, understand, love, and have faith in her healing landscapes. Anyone who wishes to pass on a conservation ethic to future generations must experience this book.

Richard C. & Joanne K. Bartlett
Uncertain & Davis Mountains, Texas


Most everyone agrees that Palo Duro Canyon is a breathtaking geological anomaly made all the more dramatic by the vast and flat caprock that flanks it from the north, west, and south. It holds our attention because of its breadth and beauty, but it also serves as the cradle of historic Texas from when Coronado passed through in the 1540s to its rebirth in the post Civil War era when the defeat of the Comanches and the opening of the western plains sparked economic growth.

The Story of Palo Duro Canyon, published by Texas Tech University Press as part of its Double Mountain Books reprint series, covers this rich history and more. It reminds us of the region’s significant geology, archeology, and anthropology. Originally published in 1979 by the Panhandle Plains Historical Society, The Story of Palo Duro Canyon was a precursor to the now commonplace interdisciplinary approach that details a subject’s intellectual legacy and places it into context. Such research protocols have long been used in anthropological and archeological site assessments, and more recently to determine the environmental impact of federally funded projects. But the
book's most important legacy is that it shows what can be achieved when biologists, historians, anthropologists, and geologists join in a common purpose - the enhancement of human understanding. Frederick W. Rathjen, professor emeritus at West Texas A&M, who has written a new introduction, aptly reminds us that the collective authors in this volume wrote not to impress other experts, but for the "curious, perceptive observers motivated by impulses characteristic of the great American naturalists" (p. xi).

Tai Kreidler
West Texas Historical Association

El Niño in History: Storming Through the Ages, César N. Caviedes

El Niño in History: Storming through the Ages is the work of historical detective Caésar N. Caviedes, who has painstakingly unearthed meteorological and other records to trace the effect of El Niño, the Pacific Ocean weather phenomenon that influences weather all over the world. Surprisingly, as Caviedes notes, El Niño went virtually unrecognized except as a regional phenomenon until late in the 1950s and in the early 1960s. Caviedes and other scholars interested in El Niño have examined indirect evidence to draw conclusions about its impact on world history.

As an example of El Niño's impact on history, Caviedes writes that Napoleon probably was its victim when he invaded Russia in the Fall of 1812. The climate of the preceding years had not suggested such a sudden and severe onset of winter, but Caviedes discerns that the El Niño effect that year caught Napoleon by surprise. Incredibly, Adolph Hitler apparently made the same mistake in the winter of 1941-1942.

Caviedes also traces certain natural catastrophes to the effects of El Niño, notably famines in India between 1685 and 1900 that took the lives of seventy million people as a result of droughts.

El Niño in History is handsomely produced, extensively illustrated with helpful graphs, maps, and tables, and contains eight pages of color photographs. The author, a professor of geography, successfully combines the historical and scientific aspects of the research. A fascinating work of history and a profoundly scholarly work, El Niño in History may be more meticulous in scientific detail than some readers will wish. But it is a satisfying book for anyone who wants to understand a natural phenomenon that affects us all.

J. M. Dempsey
University of North Texas

In RKO Radio Pictures Without Reservations (1946), John Wayne, Claudette Colbert, and Don DeFore pause inside Chicago's Dearborn Station to watch a departing Santa Fe Chief. Due to board a less luxurious train to California, the three transcontinental travelers gaze at the famous western streamliner as it rolls away and declare forlornly, "I wish we were on the Chief." Postwar movie audiences instantly connected with the statement. Santa Fe Chiefs were among the most famous trains of their time and remain perhaps the most identifiable of all name trains, even to later generations who have never ridden the rails.

Santa Fe – The Chief Way is a fresh and nostalgic look at Santa Fe luxury train travel from the late 1920s to the early 1970s. Published by New Mexico Magazine and distributed by the University of New Mexico Press, it is a handsome book suitable for the coffee table of any rail fan or transportation historian. The numerous images, and especially Santa Fe's original advertising materials – as famous as the Chief trains themselves – are vividly reproduced, and the captions are both descriptive and interpretive.

The authors effectively present the excitement, romance, and lavish style of riding Santa Fe's streamliners through the colorful Indian Country of the Southwest. "No other railroad," they affirm, "and perhaps no other company in the history of America, so completely embraced the territory it served and used the mystique of a land and its people to market itself to its customers." (p. 8) The authors' selection and presentation of images fully support their claim.

Although the book focuses on the premiere streamlined trains that operated between Chicago and California, such as the Chief, Super Chief, and El Capitan, the Texas Chief that ran between Chicago and Houston/Galveston beginning in the late 1940s is not completely overlooked.

Jonathan Gerland
T.L.L. Temple Memorial Archives, Diboll


"Mr. King, have you ever written a novel?" an uninformed Austin television interviewer asked Larry L. King at the end of a thirty-minute interview on The One-Eyed Man.
Larry, controlled and mild-mannered – not always his nature – gave a polite response under the circumstances. *The One-Eyed Man* is the only novel Larry has ever written – although he has written at least sixteen other books. Ethics require that I tell you that I am somewhat biased because Larry is a friend and we co-authored a play.

Larry has not been deluged with a lot of formal education. He went to Texas Tech for about six months. But he is the most perceptive person I know. He is well-read, self-taught, and has an ear for the English language equaled by few. Add to this his background in politics, and you are looking in the eye of *The One-Eyed Man*.

Larry has taught at Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, has been praised in high places, and after he wrote *The One-Eyed Man*, Robert Penn Warren commented to Larry that it sounded like Larry had been writing in Warren’s sleep.

The introduction to the new version of *The One-Eyed Man* suggests that this story of a Southern governor might be set in Texas. Having been hatched on a stump down in Louisiana, I always assumed it was Louisiana. Truth is, it could have been set in a number of Southern states where politics is colorful, the politicians are entertainers, and before the term “political correctness” had been invented.

When the passage of Time dries the literary ink, Larry L. King will be included in the list of the best Texas writers of all times. If you like inside politics, earthy language, humor, and good writing, I recommend that you read Larry L. King’s novel, *The One-Eyed Man*.

Ben Z. Grant
Marshall, Texas


Set in an oil field town on the Texas Gulf Coast in the 1920s, this novel is the story of the coming of age of a young woman, Quincie Bolliver. Quincie is a shy thirteen-year-old when the story begins. Her father, Curtin Bolliver, was an oil field muleskinner. His ability to handle mule-teams which hauled heavy equipment supplied himself and his motherless daughter with a subsistence level of existence. Curtin was a hard worker but he chose to live a nomadic life following the oil business from boomtown to boomtown. He had too many financial and emotional troubles of his own to give much thought to guiding his adolescent as she developed into a young woman.

The theme of the well-written and often poetic book is loss and how each
of the characters attempt to adjust to a life in constant economic transition. Mary King successfully recreates life in an oil boomtown. One can see and “smell” the tired, old boarding house crowded with workers who reek of petroleum odors. She describes one character’s frantic attempt to locate oil on her property by the old water-witch stick method and of the old man who dyed his hair because he knew no company hired white-headed oil workers. With gripping panic she pictures the raging fire in the earthen oil reservoir and the desperate effort to stop the spread of the fire. Using a young girl’s point-of-view, King writes with realistic detail of the impact of the oil industry on adults as well as children living in an oilfield town.

Priscilla Benham
North Harris Community College


_Butterflies Do Not Sleep in Hot Tubs: A Lawyer’s Tortured Search for Truth_ is the inaugural publication of Houston attorney Nancy McCoy. As titles go, this one perfectly captures the serious introspection of the author’s temporal philosophical development while always maintaining a refreshing sense of humor that clearly militates against the author taking herself too seriously. The “butterfly” reference in the title is taken from the topic of the first chapter that will seem familiar to readers of the work category that also touches, in a sophisticatedly synonymous fashion, on a deeper truth concerning paradigmatic aesthetics.

Before proceeding further the writer of this review must make a disclosure in the spirit of intellectual and literary candidness. McCoy and myself are fellow alumni of the South Texas College of Law, albeit by a couple of years, even having been taught by some of the same professors. One, in fact, a fine old gentleman, lawyer, and teacher, Charles J. Weigel, is the subject of one of the chapters of McCoy’s book.

That said, readers of this book will find that it has a lot to say. McCoy treats the reader to interesting anecdotes from her own life and those of others who have had significant influence on — and been a part of — her development as a person, parent, lawyer, and friend. This is done in a somewhat narrative manner that manages to entertain while sparking critical self-examination of self and society by the reader. The author, in 232 pages, chronicles her own personal evolution in neat, compartmentalized fashion, while avoiding the philosophical pretentiousness that often pervades such “self-discovery” literature.
A portion of the proceeds from sales of the book have been donated to the Harry Chapin Foundation, founded by the late songwriter’s widow, Sandy. The author, a self-professed Harry Chapin fanatic, devotes two full chapters to the subject. One concerns the impact that Chapin’s music has had in her life; the other recounts her meeting Sandy Chapin in New York in 1999.

*Butterflies Do Not Sleep in Hot Tubs* is a highly readable, contemplative book that relates the every-day endeavor for the deeper meaning of a life that, according to its author, is “not particularly remarkable.” Do not be fooled by McCoy’s humility. She most definitely has taken Socrates’ directive on the examined life seriously, much to the readers’ benefit.

Bryan L. Simmons

Galveston, Texas