Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS


Chester R. Burns, known for emphasizing medical ethics and bioethics in his published works, has woven the many threads of the story of the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston into a beautiful tapestry that is both unique and complete. The difficulty of the task he set for himself, while totally beyond the capabilities of many historians, has been able conquered in this large volume. It is, most definitely, a “Great Man” story in that Burns concentrated on the influential, moneyed people and groups who eventually made the Galveston Medical Branch a reality. He also brings in the faceless multitude that contributed to the success story through the use of statistical graphs and charts, as well as through his large appendices section.

Every one of the ten chapters contains information and quotes that guide the reader in discovering this complex medical entity. For example, the early John Sealy Hospital (1890s) segregated patients by gender, admitted more than 1,100 charity patients, and performed more than 900 gynecological operations in a single year (pp. 28-29). In discussing John Spies’ unfortunate introduction by Edward Randall, Sr., as the new dean – without first consulting powerful board members – the reader can sense the audible pause and shocked silence in which Spies found himself (pp. 46-49). The leading quotation in “Chapter 5: Caring and Curing” is priceless. A patient needing a hernia operation spoke to his physician. “Do you remember Mattie Brown? You all operated on her and she died, but I have confidence in you all; and do you remember Brother Jones? You all operated on him too and he died, but I sure have got confidence in you all; and I am going to let you operate on me when I make up my mind” (p. 137).

Burns strives to separate the Galveston Medical Branch from its parent institution, the University of Texas at Austin, to show how complicated it was to keep it from being absorbed into the larger, more powerful “University.” Interestingly, the reader discovers that the symbiotic relationship between the two institutions actually benefited, rather than harmed, both institutions.

Beverly J. Rowe
Texarkana College
After years of plying the philanthropic waters of Texas on behalf of my institutions and the submission of hundreds of grant proposals, some thankfully funded...many politely rejected, I approached Mary L. Kelly’s small volume on Texas foundations not expecting to learn much I did not already know. I was pleasantly surprised and left wanting more.

Through six brief vignettes, Kelly explores the gradual move among wealthy Texans in the first half of the twentieth century from “retail giving” to “wholesale philanthropy.” Most importantly, she places this transformation squarely in the context of national philosophical, sociological, and political movements underway at the time. As they amassed huge fortunes, as the tax codes provided incentives, and as federal and state governments would not or could not meet human needs, from 1920 to 1970 Texans responded with the creation of approximately 250 private foundations, thus “leveraging their private wealth for the public good” (p.95).

From among many excellent samples, Kelly chose well: George W. Brackenridge and the Brackenridge Foundation; George B. Dealey and the Dallas Foundation; Jesse H. Jones and the Houston Endowment; Ima Hogg and the Hogg Foundation for Mental Health; and Amon G. Carter and the Carter Foundation. In addition, Kelly provides a brief history of the evolution of The Conference of Southwest Foundations into the first organized “cooperative community of philanthropists” in the nation.

Kelly provides only a tantalizing glimpse of the inevitable criticism leveled at private foundations and eventual governmental regulation culminating in the Tax Reform Act of 1969. It is enough, however, to suggest an opportunity for additional research and publication of other volumes to fully document the fascinating world of philanthropy in Texas. In the meantime, this book is a welcome addition to that documentation.

Jerry E. Holbert
Stephen F. Austin State University

I saw Bill Wittliff’s vaquero pictures when he was shooting them during the early 1970s. I was much impressed! Then he had this great Vaquero show at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio from which I obtained a poster of the vaquero roping the calf in the prickly pear and have had it hanging on an office wall for years. Still have it, as a matter of fact. Now I have this magnificent collection of prints in Vaquero: Genesis of the Texas Cowboy
that The University of Texas Press published, and it can’t get much better than that.

This won’t be an unbiased review. I think that Bill Wittliff is one of Texas’ truly great artists, one of the state’s treasures. He is a painter, sculptor, writer, the finest of bookmen, and here we spotlight him as a photographer. Bill’s vaquero pictures taken on El Rancho Tule in the state of Coahuila, Mexico, have captured a historical piece of our culture, the vaquero at work, the very genesis of Texas and America’s own cowboy culture. Bill’s collection of pictures of vaqueros on the range is about a traditional way of life in Mexico’s Sierra Madre over a generation ago, and already progress has made Wittliff’s photographic study an artistic documentary of things that have passed into the realm of history. The 360,000-acre El Rancho Tule has since been divided and sold.

Bill’s time on the Tule ranch remains, however, captured as on a Grecian urn. His photographs of vaqueros – hair and dust flying, muscles straining – have stopped in time the action and the excitement of breaking horses and roping calves. He pictures the vaqueros at their work during a roundup, of roping and branding, of their lives in camp around the chuckwagon and at home in the bunkhouse. Bill has sensitively captured the dignity and personality of each vaquero in his many individual portraits, pictures of men who ride with a strong and silent pride in being who they are.

Bill’s commentary at the end of the book is written as frames of film that have captured his memories of thoughts and sounds and sights. Of a panther and the cry of coyotes and fireflies and the smell of campfires. I can imagine that these shoots became some of the most dramatic frames in Bill’s own life. He wandered into a new world of thorny plants and dangerous animals, a world that was rocky and harsh and dry as an old cow’s skull. He framed people in his lenses who could have been characters out of Mexican True West pulp fiction. This was a vivid time and El Rancho Tule became a frame for an intense episode in Wittliff’s life, which he generously shares through his pictures.

Bill’s old friend, John Graves, wrote the introduction to Vaquero, and he couldn’t have gotten anybody better in literary style or stature. John’s essay is a meditation on his own life and experiences with the vaquero and cowboy culture, a culture that certainly spreads out on both sides of the Rio Grande. No one questions that the vaquero, who handled stock for 300 years before the Texas cowboy got into the picture, was the instructor of the Texas cowboy culture. But for decades gringos have staked their claims in some of the ranchlands of northern Mexico and paid back the vaqueros with cowboy culture. John Graves has lived in both of these worlds for a long lifetime and understands their ways of life and their pride, and he understands the richness of the culture and the influence that it has had on Texas, the United States and the world. Speaking of which, I remember being eye-shocked in Yogyakarta when I met a macho Indonesian wearing a cowboy hat, a fancy belt, and boots. The vaquero-cowboy culture has made a substantial contribution to the world’s fashions.
Bill Wittliff's *Vaquero: Genesis of a Cowboy* is a treasure of photographic art and a treasure of history.

F. E. Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University, Emeritus


Intercollegiate Rodeo has a long and exciting history, but no one has told its story until Sylvia Gann Mahoney "took the bull by the horns" and produced an exciting, fact-filled book about everything you wanted to, or should know, about the sport. Mahoney spent many years competing in rodeos and the past fifteen years interviewing, visiting, researching, and compiling information to write the history of this great event and what it has meant to thousands of students and hundreds of colleges across this nation. She either knew or found out about everyone associated with this sport on the college level, which enabled her to come away with a spectacular story of winners, losers, organizations, problems, sponsors, workers, cowboys, and cowgirls.

Cowboys never stayed anywhere long enough to organize until unfairness of producers of "America's only original sport" led them to realize that they must have some structure. In doing this, one sees an entertainment turned into big business, beginning early in the 1940s. Starting in November 1920, at Texas A&M University, rodeo competition between colleges developed quickly over the next few decades into a family affair where each generation grew up and did with their children what they had done. It was a social event with bonding among all who shared horses, equipment, money, and glory. As collegiate rodeo grew in popularity, even including World War II veterans on the GI Bill, organization became necessary and the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) was established in 1948. Mahoney covers the hard work, sacrifice, dedication, conflict, and growing pains of a sport that rapidly became so popular that the colleges had to develop regions across the country, and establish provisions for publicity, fees, financing, sponsors, producers, and rules.

Mahoney covers the cowgirl story as well. Today college rodeo is big business with new leaders, big scholarships and awards, an annual national finals rodeo, a foundation, and even an alumni association. Collegiate rodeo also encourages academic standards and has become a way of life, making the cowboy myth a reality for those who participate. The strange phenomenon of an "educated" cowboy seeps through the pages and reminds the reader that times have changed.

The addition throughout the book of photographs of legendary partici-
pants and charts at the end of the book on every college and national finals winners from 1949-2003 make this a valuable research tool and a source of pride among the rodeo crowd. Especially for cowboys, and those who enjoy watching cowboys, this book brings back the excitement, skill, color, and stories of college rodeo careers, successes and failures, and occasionally one of those rare cowboy stories of glory, defeat, or coincidence.

Linda Cross
Tyler Junior College


Water is the single most influential component of life; this is true physiologically and spiritually. A requisite constituent of life, water geographical and geological presence is a determinant in where men and other animals live. The Balcones Escarpment and the springs that emerge from its sweep across central Texas defined animal watering and human settlement patterns that are reflected today in the arc of cities from Austin to San Marcos from New Braunfels to San Antonio and on west to Hondo.

Charlene Chandler’s commendable book reflects on the bounty of water in a land where paucity is the norm. The six miles of [watered] Independence Creek, a major tributary of the Pecos River that joins the river in Terrell County, provided the Chandler family both challenge and comfort during the century of which Chandler writes. From the turn-of-the-century purchase of the ranch by her grandfather through the stewardship of the land by her parents, Chandler vividly describes the hardship of growing up on a working ranch. The author leavened the recollection of her childhood and the rugged labor necessary by all family members to extract a living from the land with appreciation for the sustenance provided by Independence Creek. At mid-twentieth century Joe Chandler, the author’s father, abandoned “true ranching” to establish a guest ranch, the Independence Lake Club. In 1953 Chandler built fishing ponds and sold bait to fishermen. Despite a devastating flood in 1954, the Joe Chandler Guest Ranch continued to grow as the family added guest cabins, a spring-fed swimming pool, and a nine-hole golf course. For over three decades the family hosted fishermen and golfers in what must have been one of the prettiest settings in the near-desert country of Terrell County, Texas.

This book is an important addition to any library. Anecdotally styled, the lively narrative is supported by endnotes and bibliography. It provides a valuable insight into the isolation endured by rural residents as recently as sixty years ago, during a time before rural electrification, telephones, farm-to-market roads, and satellite dish television with “all news all the time,” and of their
imaginative ability to meet the challenges of depression, drought, and flood. Above all, Chandler’s perspective is celebratory – of her family, of neighbors and friends, and of a rugged yet exhilarating life whose literal wellspring was Independence Creek.

Page S. Foshee
Austin, Texas


Historians largely have ignored the study of educational development. Any research in the field is welcome but especially so are solidly-researched and well-written monographs such as Carlos Kevin Blanton’s work on bilingualism in Texas schools. Blanton’s book is timely. According to the federal census of 2000, the almost seven million Hispanics in Texas make up thirty percent of the population, and demographic forecasters predict they will account for half the population by 2030.

Bilingualism brings to mind the political hot potato of the 1970s and early 1980s. Considering with the furor over school curriculum and the costs of printing state and federal government information in Spanish and English in recent years, Blanton points out that Texas historically has been a multi-lingual state. From Stephen F. Austin’s settlement throughout most of the nineteenth century, English and Spanish were common languages in the state. After the Texas Revolution, classrooms echoed with lessons in German, Czech, and Polish because of locally oriented, parent-initiated, “community” schools.

Blanton identifies Progressive-era reforms aimed at centralizing education, anti-immigrant sentiments at the turn of the century and during World War I, and the unrest associated with the Mexican Revolution as forces that coalesced to allow school reformers to press an English-only pedagogy. As the Hispanic population increased across Texas and the Southwest following the WWI, bilingual education came to mean Spanish education, and the issue became national during Lyndon Johnson’s presidency.

The debate over bilingual education remains far from resolved. Blanton concludes that it is not a “magical sword” but another “pedagogical tool to bring the school to the child” (p. 155). He nicely ties bilingual education to local control and his description of the development of early Texas educational history is commendable. The book has a wide audience and readers will benefit from Blanton’s thorough research.

Gene Preuss
Houston, Texas

Reared in a Coast Guard family and on his way to a doctorate in psychology, Jerry Morton found himself a "reluctant recruit" in an Army that now no longer exists. For one thing, "Family tradition had it that only stupid people went into the army" (p. 43). But he was drafted without a choice. And in the mid-1960s during the Vietnam War.

That was a sentiment he came to temper if not to disavow after less than three years and winding up as a lieutenant via OCS: "... many of the people in the U.S. Army are dedicated professionals with a strong sense of working for the benefit of mankind (p. 319)."

Along the way the author gives non-veterans an insight into how the Army makes soldiers out of rookies. Morton tells how a drill instructor was unsuccessful in teaching him how to drive a truck; how he "captured" a major and three other less-senior officer-umpires during a night exercise; and how he managed to navigate a night compass course on another occasion.

Less instructive was how Morton spent a Saturday night pass with a drinking companion at an all-black nightclub located deep in the piney woods near Fort McClellan. The night ended when his hosts delivered him back to the post in a limousine.

I know that it is not obligatory for a reviewer to comment on a book's introduction, but in this case it seems mandatory to do so. G. Kurt Piehler of the Center for the Study of War and Society has written a splendid ten-page essay complete with endnotes on the Vietnam climate during which Morton was drafted.

"During the Vietnam War era," Piehler writes, "most Vietnam veterans were not grunts: 8.7 million men, the majority of these in the armed forces, never saw service in Indochina. Only more than a third, 2.7 million, served in the country." Neither Morton nor Piehler mentions him, but it is only fair to genuine Vietnam combatants to recall that a former presidential candidate earned his Vietnam bona fides as a "vet" by holding down a cushy job as a headquarters desk jockey.

Never having served overseas, Morton wound up his service as an instructor in an Army school after his graduation from OCS in 1967. He now holds a PhD in psychology at the University of Tennessee. His is a book which even non-veterans may find readable and worth shelving.

Max S. Lale
Marshall and Fort Worth
Reading Jan Reid’s *The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock* was like visiting old friends who have retired. In 1974, the first time Jan Reid wrote this book, redneck rock was in full swing and Austin was the center of this new music world. All sorts of music—folk, rhythm and blues, soul, pop, rock and roll, country—was funneled into Austin by all sorts of hippies and druggies, country and college boys. Everybody was pickin’ and singin’, and the main sound vector in 1974 was a blend of country and western (the “redneck” part of Reid’s formula) and the prevailing refrains of rock and roll that came out of the last days of the turbulent 1960s.

Thirty years later, those sounds and singers have become a part of musical cultural history which Jan has surveyed and brought up to date. The heart of *Redneck Rock* is an expanded, definitive study of the Austin music scene in the Seventies, beautifully written and graphically described. It’s all there, new and improved: Stan Alexander’s folk music club at North Texas that spawned Michael Murphey, Travis Holland, Eddie Wilson, among others—Janis Joplin at Threadgill’s—Eddie Wilson’s Armadillo World Headquarters—Hondo Crouch at Luckenbach—Austin radio Station KOKE—Willie Nelson’s Picnics and Reunions—and, perhaps climactically, “Austin City Limits.”

Jan has completely and encyclopedically covered the Austin music spectrum, from then to now in *Redneck Rock*. He brings the reader up to date on the whiles and whereabouts of Michael, Jerry Jeff, and Fromholtz. Remember, those pickers and singers who were in their twenties and thirties in the 1970s are now in their fifties and sixties, and setting up and playing a gig is much harder now than it was thirty years ago. Although you can’t tell it by watching Willie, most of those old kickers have modified their lifestyles. Jan brings us up to date and explores the musical adventures of such popular later comers as Joe Ely and Marcia Ball (love her!), Lyle Lovett, and the Dixie Chicks. As hard as it might be nowadays to find genuine cow-chip-kickin’ country music on the Austin scene, that hub of Texas is still the venue for exciting sounds.

Jan Reid is one my favorite writers. He has a natural, personal, conversational style and can create a scene and draw characters as vividly and honestly as anybody else I presently read. I emphasize the honest and personal qualities of his style. He takes you with him to Willie’s picnics and Jerry Jeff’s gigs, and you are there—in the dust and the heat, smelling the pot and the whiskey, watching Rusty Wier kick up his heels. It’s a great trip!

*The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock* would easily be worth the price if all you got were the pictures. Scott Newton’s illustrations have all the joy and excitement of a Saturday night at Threadgill’s. And with a little creative imagination you can get the sound. So if you weren’t on the scene during the surge of redneck rock, you missed some music history and need to read about it.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University

Down in Houston, by Roger Wood, begins with Wood telling his story and it evolves into a major book tracing the history and influence of blues in Houston. This is a big book that becomes bigger than the story it is telling. The photos, taken by James Fraher, add depth and texture in black-and-white to this colorful book. All in all, the publisher has created a work of art.

Readers can enjoy reading about the way Woods conducted his research, read the interviews he conducted, and see the sharp edges that clearly delineate each facet of each photo. Use of italicized sections and space between sections, rather than traditional chapter headings, gives the book a new way to convey the information that captures the reader's eye and leads him forward and deeper into the text.

Woods includes details, dates and definitions. The musicians relate memories and stories. Musicians such as Albert Collins, Gatemouth Brown, Johnny Copeland and Lightnin' Hopkins may be the stars, but many others associated with the blues scene also are featured.

Fraher captures the skin tones, the fingers and eyes, the strings on a guitar, the laughter and the serious faces. His photo essay, interspersed among the stories, serves as more than just punctuation or enrichment – his photo essay tells its own story.

This book sheds new light on the Houston blues scene and reveals aspects of music and community that often remain in the shadows. A seven-year project, the book is a must for musicologists, anthropologists, sociologists and more importantly, fans of the blues.

Kathleen Hudson
Schreiner University


This is number seven in the Western Life Series published by the University of North Texas Press. All seven have been written by John R. Erickson and all touch on some area of cowboy life. Erickson obviously has found a subject that is dear to his heart. Raised in Perryton, in the Texas Panhandle, he has cowboyled and ranched in the area for most of his life. He is best known, perhaps, for his Hank The Cowdog series of books, and in fact, it is their success that has allowed him to purchase the M-Cross Ranch where he and his family live and work.
In the "Authors Note" to the new edition, Erickson informs us that "Cowboying in the Texas Panhandle isn't exactly the same as cowboying in California; it's not even the same as cowboying in East Texas. Differences among cowboys arise from "history, tradition, weather, and terrain, to name a few" (p. xiii). Those hoping for an in-depth view into the life of the East Texas cowboy will have to keep looking. That said, there are many similarities between cowboys around the country. Erickson presents an interesting and detailed study of many of the problems confronting the modern version, as well as the reasons for continuing in a profession that involves so much hard work and so little monetary return.

This new edition of the book is illustrated throughout with utilitarian photographs by the author's wife, Kristine, showing cowboys at work, close-ups of equipment, and portraits of local cowboys.

Guy Gillette
Crockett, Texas

Advancing Democracy: African Americans and the Struggle for Access and Equity in Higher Education in Texas, Amilcar Shabazz (University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2004).

Several books have been published during the past three years that examine school desegregation in Texas. Amilcar Shabazz shifts this story to Texas' institutions of higher education. In doing so he draws our attention to the rich and complex story of the African American struggle for access to higher education that spanned most of a century and reached its climax in a series of confrontation in the courtroom and on the campuses during the two decades that followed World War II. Shabazz argues convincingly that the desegregation of higher education in Texas was the result of a long struggle that combined the efforts of the leadership of local black communities with those of the local and national offices of the N.A.A.C.P. He also emphasizes the importance and the courage of the scores of individual young African American men and women who placed themselves at risk as they challenged the racial mores of mid-twentieth century Texas.

Shabazz introduces his study with an account of the historical roots of the black campaign for higher education in the Lone Star State. His description of the Texas University Movement and the shift in tactics from advocating the creation of a separate but equal system of higher education in the state to the demand for desegregation is especially rich in detail. He rightly notes the divisions among local African American leaders, and the conflicts between elements in the local leadership and the national offices of the N.A.A.C.P. He also does a good job analyzing the Sweatt case, the creation of Texas State University for Negroes (TSUN), and the efforts of state officials to use TSUN
to deflect and undermine the desegregation movement. Shabazz then goes on to present a detailed description of the desegregation of individual Texas institutions of higher education, from those that desegregated peacefully before the Supreme Court's *Brown* decision to those that resisted into the mid 1960s.

The story Shabazz presents is a fascinating one, depicting Texas and Texans at their best and their worst. One can find fault here and there—personally I wish the book had addressed the end of segregation at the major private institutions such as Rice and SMU. However, this extensively researched book is fine as it stands. It will inform and sometimes provoke its readers while it educates them about the heretofore-neglected history of the struggle for equality in Texas higher education.

Cary D. Wintz  
Texas Southern University

*Inventing Texas: Early Historians of the Lone Star State*, Laura Lyons McLemore  
(Texas A&M University, 4354 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-4354)  

This work by Laura Lyons McLemore is a well-researched study of the historiography of nineteenth-century Texas. Such a documented examination of historians in this period is more than warranted because of the popular notion that Texas always has been a land inundated with myths and tall tales. McLemore shows that, albeit with some poor exceptions, most of those who wrote historical works during this period actually did a commendable job.

Sometimes the style in which these works were written, such as romantic works of the mid-1800s, prevent the histories from being objective or unbiased in the modern sense. In the same way, many early historians had varying personal agendas to promote, ranging from political to economical. Nevertheless, these men and women attempted to remain true to the facts without resorting to half-truths or embellishment, and often used as much documentation as a modern historian would. In fact, considering that all of these authors wrote in a time before history became an established scholarly field with procedural guidelines, the author believes they are due much more credit than they are usually given.

In *Inventing Texas*, McLemore clearly and succinctly describes the early historians of Texas in chronological order, and the final product is thoroughly enjoyable. By utilizing an impressive array of primary sources, enhanced by solid biographical information, she allows the reader to get to know these historians almost personally without dwelling on any one individual for too long. More than a dozen important authors are covered, and while a few were poor historians, none blatantly contributed to what the author refers to as the
"mythistory" of Texas. Rather, the reader is shown that "historian" is, in fact, the correct label for these early authors of Texas.

Mark Fink
Wichita Falls, Texas

I Am Not the Woman I Was, Frances Nail (Eakin Press, P.O. Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709-0159) 2002. Contents. Illus. P. 165. $22.95. Hardcover.


When Dr. McDonald first asked me to review these three books, I'm afraid my reaction was negative. I really was a little offended that titles such as I Just Called Her Momma, Seven Before Seventy, and I'm Not the Woman I Was should bring me to his mind. That was before I read these delightful books.

These three authors and I shared the same timescape, if not the same landscape, and I related with great pleasure to the accounts of their experiences and memories. Each presented vivid pictures of their very different lives and all conveyed strong powers of observation and sensitivity.

I Just Called Her Momma is the title of Mae Durden-Nelson's memories of growing up on a family farm in Central Texas during and after the Great Depression and World War II. This is a loving tribute to her mother and father and their close-knit family. Her account of life in the German farm communities around Fredericksburg reflect the effects of the AAA and the REA and other emergency measures on the lives of Texas farmers. This is an endearing portrayal of a family life rooted in love and loyalty and tradition.

Seven Before Seventy began as an idea in the mind of nine-year-old Joyce Brooks as she was picking cotton on her father's farm in Central Texas. She vowed then to travel around the world and to write a book about it. Her first travel adventure came when, at the age of sixteen, she won an all-expense paid trip to New York as a prize in a farm magazine essay contest. However, it was after college, marriage, two children, newspaper and public relations jobs, and a divorce that she was able to return to her traveling dream. She married again, this time to a man who also liked to travel, and she became a travel agent. Her story is an entertaining and informative account of her travels as a tour leader and as an independent traveler. She achieved her goal of reaching seven continents before she was seventy years old, and she invites you along for the trip. The reader will be glad that he has a ticket.

Frances Nail's memories in I'm Not The Woman I Was are pure joy. Her warm, quirky accounts and observations of her family, her life and our times
compel the reader to seek others with which to share them. For some unfathomable reason I had never encountered the writings of Frances Nail before. She has won many awards and nominations from prestigious literary groups and has been a featured writer at the Texas Book Festival and many other literary events, but somehow I missed out on this pleasure. I will make haste to correct this.

I want to thank Dr. McDonald and the East Texas Historical Association for giving me the opportunity to become acquainted with these authors and their works. It was a privilege.

Hazel Shelton Abernethy
Nacogdoches, Texas


From Eakin Press, an Austin, Texas, publisher of mostly non-fiction and children's books, each of these four novels tells a different story from a different time.

The first and the best of the bunch, _In a Fevered Land_ by Irene Sandell, is set during the Texas oil rush of the late twenties and early thirties. Ranging from Wink, Texas, to Kilgore, and back to Midland, the novel traces the journey of Lon Prather and his cousin Emory Campbell from the dying cotton farms of central Texas to their arrival in west Texas where they become roughnecks in the oil fields. Lon is a serious young man who saves his money and invests it in mineral rights along the Texas-New Mexico border. Emory crashes and burns in the wide-open oil towns of the period; drinking and carousing, he is knifed to death by an escaped convict. Lon determines to kill Emory's murderer, but another man tackles the murderer just as he is attempting to stab Lon. Both men die. Lon's decision to leave the farm is validated when he is able to help his father pay the taxes on their land after drought has stunted the cotton crop. Fortunately, his investments pay off, and the novel ends with his marriage to the girl next door.

Exciting and fast moving, this novel kept my attention throughout. I found the interaction between the big oil company and the upstart with whom Lon had invested to be the most interesting section of the novel. However, I
did find the main investor's ignorance of how the big oil companies operated to be somewhat unbelievable. After all, he had the intelligence and foresight to buy land that they had virtually ignored until someone else found oil in the area. Despite this lapse, the read was quite satisfactory and the history, setting, and characterization realistic.

The second, *All Roads Lead Home* by Linda S. Bingham, is a three-generation story of a mother, her three daughters, and one granddaughter. The three sisters have gone their own directions in life and have found that their attitudes toward their home, which vary from rejection to apathy, have led them to make some big mistakes. And, of course, all of the women have issues with the men in their lives. The novel brings each of the sisters back to her ancestral home by various means and allows them to find fulfillment in never-before considered ways. The granddaughter shakes off an expected marriage, marries for love, and leaves, seemingly repeating her mother's mistakes from the generation before. However, she is redeemed by acceptance of the new life her mother leads, her father's death, and her former lover's relationship with one of her aunts.

The novel is set in a small, fictionalized East Texas town of Trinity, although it spans much of the state from Amarillo to Galveston. The dialogue is believable, with the longer narrative sections taking place in the characters' minds. Little description is included, although it does become clear that the Piney Woods form the backdrop of most of the story. This is not a historical novel, per se. In fact, it tends toward the soap-opera genre, complete with unfaithful husbands and fairly graphic sexual encounters. Sufficient for a lazy summer afternoon read, the novel is not the stuff of greatness.

*The Heart Twisters*, by Nancy McCoy, brings together small-town Texas politics and football. Loosely based on the Santa Fe, Texas, bid to include student-led prayer at their football games in 2000, this novel is set in Bernard, Texas, situated north of Houston, some years later. In the midst of a battle over prayer at the high school football games, a Jewish family moves to town and becomes the focal point for the hate that the prayer issue sparks. One high school teacher brings in a Houston attorney—her ex-lover—to fight against prescribed school prayer. The climax occurs when too many people pack the football stands for a grudge match. The stands crash, Travis (the one gay high-schooler) is killed, many are injured, and the Jewish doctor, his nurse wife, along with some who had been on the other side of the prayer issue, work together to sort out the injured. They provide first aid and load the most badly injured in helicopters bound for Houston hospitals. In the aftermath, the teacher and her lawyer friend are engaged, the coach and others realize that they must participate in mediation, some become even angrier, and we hope that the bigotry ends.

This novel has a rather slow start, but once past Virginia's and Jack's (the teacher and the Houston lawyer) reconciliation, the action speeds up. In this novel the characters are believable, the dialogue is realistic, and the story seems plausible. The profanity and the graphic, back-seat sex scene are some-
what over the top, but the novel ends on a note of hopefulness, with the Jewish family deciding to stay, despite the prejudice they have encountered. Perhaps they can all overcome the bigotry and live together in peace.

*Gringo Verde: A Novel of Revolution and Redemption*, by Kerry McCan, is set early in the twentieth century. The story of a young man from a Refugio, Texas, cattle family, the novel begins with Green Dunigan's trip to San Antonio, where, while drunk, he signs up with the Rough Riders and is shipped out to Cuba. He is injured in the charge up San Juan Hill and is mustered out of the army, returning to his family business. He settles in El Paso, and during his cattle-buying trips to Mexico, he meets Pancho Villa. Although he had determined to stay away from the war, he is convinced to work on Villa's artillery unit, training gun crews and obtaining weapons. Much of the novel covers major battles of the Mexican Revolution. As the revolution winds down, Green marries the daughter of a once wealthy Mexican rancher, purchases a ranch in New Mexico, and helps her rebuild her family's ranch. The remainder of the novel is about the building of Green's cattle empire and the growth of his family.

*Gringo Verde: A Novel of Revolution and Redemption* seems to concentrate on revolution without much redemption. With a narrative voice that is formal and withdrawn, the novel is not compelling. The prose plods, the dialogue is stilted, and the character development is minimal. Green, the protagonist, makes few mistakes, and those he does make always turn out well. I would prefer a flawed protagonist who needs redemption. This novel offers a hagiography. For an overview of the two wars and the Texas cattle business, the book is fine. As a novel, it is too impersonal.

Sarah Cheney Watson
East Texas Baptist University


In *Let's Hear It*, Sylvia Ann Grider and Lou Halsell Rodenberger compile "twenty-one plus one" short stories by Texas women from the nineteenth century to the present. The editors wanted to compile a collection of short stories exclusively by Texas women arranged chronologically, and give a history illustrating the development of the short story by those women. The result is outstanding.

The book's introduction covers the publishing history of women's writing in Texas, as well as the history of Texas women writers and the evolution of the short story. The editors arranged the book chronologically, and divided their collection into four parts: Civil War to Turn-of-the-Century; 1920s-
1950s, 1960s-1980s; and 1990s. Prior to each short story, they include a brief biography of the author, and a list of the author’s works. Grider and Rodenberger include two appendices; one lists short-story collections by Texas women writers, and the other lists major collections of Texas short stories, which contain stories by Texas women.

This compilation of short stories by Texas women writers is excellent, and the stories are both entertaining and thought provoking. The editors chose both well-known authors, such as Katherine Anne Porter, and more obscure authors, such as Olive Huck. From a historical viewpoint, one can read this book to see how writing styles have changed over the years. One can also view each story as a “historical picture” representing a specific period in Texas history.

While the book covers Texas as a whole, a few short stories represent life in East Texas. Anyone interested in literature, Texas history, or social history would enjoy this book. Two bonuses for those who enjoy these authors are the individual authors’ bibliographies, and the appendices listing additional short story sources. This collection makes a significant contribution to Texas literature and Texas history.

Deborah Cole
Nacogdoches, Texas


The Family Saga is an illuminating collection of family legends that demonstrates the importance and prevalence of the oral traditions in Texas. The editors have compiled a collection of family stories that range from the reminiscences of ordinary Texans to such noted western writers as Elmer Kelton. The editors concede that family legends or folklore is not formal history because these stories may not conform with historical facts and cannot be tested by readily available documents by researchers. Nevertheless, the stories collected here offer some insight into Texas history.

This collection of family legends relates some experiences commonly studied in the field of history. Immigration, war, religion, and work are some of the areas explored in this book, which combines the historical experience of many people. However, family folklore allows one insight into how major events affected the people who lived in those eras. The perceptions of historical actors and their personal recollections can only further the study of history and provide a greater understanding of a particular event. Historical movements and events have no context without the personal stories of those that lived through them. That is the utility of this work.
This work also reinforces the importance of storytelling in Texas. Many stories might be lost if not for the oral traditions. The editors have done a fine job in compiling these stories, demonstrating the importance of family stories to the study of personal and state history.

Robert H. Butts
Texas Christian University


Independent genealogist and historian Carolyn Earle Billingsley makes a strong case for the use of kinship as a "discrete category of analysis complementary to and potentially as powerful as race, class, and gender" as she traces the Thomas Keesee, Sr. family in her Communities of Kinship (p. 2). The author's reworked Rice University dissertation demonstrates how tracing kinship through genealogical and historical methods reveals important information about migration and settlement patterns, religion, class, and economic and political power in the highly structured world of the Old South. Well written and carefully researched and organized, Communities of Kinship makes a strong case for the value of kinship studies to historical research.

Billingsley begins by introducing her audience to the anthropological terms and methodologies used throughout the book and offering data analysis for her example, the Thomas Keesee, Sr., kinship group, as it grew and changed over time. She then explores the central nature of kinship ties to migration and settlement patterns of antebellum Southern families, revealing that kinship groups strengthened and enlarged through marriages often populated entire towns. Additionally, she points out that kinship often defined a group's religion, with marriage the number one reason behind change in religious affiliation. Billingsley also discusses how economic and political power within kinship groups could be cultivated easily through mutual ownership, preferential treatment, and by creating power chains—both political and economic—through kin ties. Finally, the postbellum lives of prominent members of the Keesee family are traced, postulating briefly the impact of the Civil War and modernization on the role of kinship in the Keesee family—and the larger community in which they lived—and drawing conclusions about planter class kinship groups in the South in general. In all, Billingsley's work offers historians a new perspective when examining historical data, that of the lens of kinship, which, Billingsley claims, "can often transcend and subsume...categories of analysis" such as race, class, and gender (p. 153).

Lauren Ashley Laumen
Fort Worth, Texas

Those who celebrate Texas heroes and Civil War buffs alike will be pleased by the new book on the Battle of Sabine Pass by Edward T. Cotham, Jr., which features exhaustive research and stirring prose. It is a worthy successor to his Battle on the Bay: The Civil War Struggle for Galveston (1998), and is by far the most comprehensive account of the September 8, 1863, battle in which Company F of the Jefferson Davis Guards under Richard W. (Dick) Dowling, with less than 50 men, captured two Union gunboats and more than 300 prisoners while repelling a Federal invasion force without losing a man.

Cotham's most important conclusions contend that the campaign, originally intended to be an army assignment, became a navy engagement in which the army only assisted; that General Godfrey Weitzel, with 500 troops aboard the General Banks was unsuited for the command of the army operation because of a "phobia" concerning the "cost and futility of charging a fortified position across open ground ..." (p. 115); and that the naval assault failed due to a combination of strategy, the deadly accuracy of Confederate artillery, and the failure of Weitzel to land his troops.

No satisfactory answer exists as to why the Federal soldiers under Weitzel did not go ashore. Both contemporary and postwar assessments attributed the failure to various factors, including a fear that the soldiers would sink and become mired in mud at the designated landing site, poor leadership, and the "pointing of fingers" by various army and navy participants.

Cotham concludes his assessment with the belief that once the assault committed "to the strategy of charging up the relatively narrow channels at Fort Griffin, Dowling and his men ... were essentially shooting fish in a barrel" (p. 193).

James C. Maroney
Lee College


Frequently put together by committees composed of church members who are dedicated but untrained in history, congregational studies often are deadly dull, consisting of little more than numbing lists of committees, music leaders, and pastors. This work avoids the usual pitfalls. Calvary Baptist com-
missioned one of its own, Ron Ellison, a recognized authority on Baptists of Southeast Texas. Ellison's research of primary records was exhaustive and his interviews of former pastors and current members extensive. The result is a readable account of a congregation that evolved from working-class roots on Beaumont's south side to a major religious institution comfortably situated on the flourishing northwestern edge of the city. Amply footnoted, carefully indexed, and enhanced by photographs throughout, this is a worthy contribution to the religious history of southeast Texas.

As told by Ellison, Calvary Baptist has known both harmony and discord. The cross-town rivalry between A.E. Booth, a First Baptist preacher of questionable character, and Calvary's Fred Clark comes to mind, as well as the internally divisive pastorate of A.C. Maxwell, who reminds one of the controversial J. Frank Norris. And while the congregation's decision in 1976 to flee a declining and ethnically diverse neighborhood raises some questions about its commitment to the poor, there is no denying that the move has been beneficial in terms of material growth and institutional prestige. Ironically, it was Pastor James B. Thompson, frustrated in efforts to focus more attention on the growing numbers of African Americans, Hispanics, and Vietnamese in the church's midst, who led the congregation to its present location.

Studies of this type all too often fail to relate the local church to the surrounding area. But Ellison weaves Calvary's story into a broader context, taking into account both secular and religious developments across the state. This adds to the historical value, and Ellison is to be complimented.

John W. Storey
Lamar University


The summer of 1974 in the United States was a dynamic time. President Richard Nixon was on the verge of resigning due to allegations of impropriety in the Watergate scandal, the uprising in South Dakota's Wounded Knee II was still fresh in the minds of the population, and then there was the Carrasco Siege. The Carrasco Siege was the longest prison siege in United States history—eleven days of psychological torture, a test of wills, and the tragic deaths of four individuals on a Texas summer night.

Through the use of personal interviews of hostages, recorded tapes of the incident, and play-by-play explanations from law enforcement and correctional officials, author Bill Harper allows the reader inside a story that should have been told in detail long ago. Perhaps the book's biggest strength is Harper's use of audiotapes of the siege as prime evidence of the action in a
real-time scenario. Harper emphasizes the core of the conflict—the test of wills between hardened criminal Fred Carrasco and prison director Jim Estelle. The siege's outcome becomes the determination of whether inmates can be freed in exchange for hostages or whether policy has no compromise at any cost.

Some of the dialogue is damning to many actions taken by the hostages during the crisis, and one wonders if a more balanced approach could have been obtained with additional hostage interviews. That notwithstanding, this book is the definitive work regarding one of the most dramatic and intense prison standoffs in United States history and should be in every library and museum that addresses this genre.

Patrick McConal
Bryan, Texas

A Texas Baptist History Sourcebook: A Companion to McBeth's Texas Baptists,
Joseph E. Early, Jr. (University of North Texas Press, P. O. Box 311336, Denton, TX 76203-1336) 2004. Contents. P. 676. $29.95. Hardcover.

Joseph E. Early, Jr. has compiled a useful volume that includes many original, primary, selected sources relating the story of Texas Baptists. All of his chapters and divisions correspond to those in Harry Leon McBeth's Texas Baptists: A Sesquicentennial History. Early follows the beginning explorations of Texas, includes the start of Baptist work in the state, and concludes with the 150th anniversary of the first state convention in 1998.

The materials Early utilizes are important and insightful in helping the reader understand the roots, growth, and work of Texas Baptists. One important item that needed to be included was that Joseph Bays preached the first Baptist sermon on record in Texas in 1820. Delivering his messages on the Texas side of the Sabine River in Joseph Hinds' home, Bays soon "had regular monthly services" until the Roman Catholics learned of them and "immediately ordered their discontinuance." (McBeth, p. 13, and J.M. Carroll, A History of Texas Baptists, pp. 19-20.)

Throughout his study Early incorporates vignettes of a host of Baptist leaders who helped shape and carry out the state work. He also discusses the institutions they built and the controversies that arose from time to time, including the work of Texas Baptists Committed, followed by the formation of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

This work embodies a collection of numerous aspects about the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Students and scholars who desire to study its activities and accomplishments further will profit much from Early's labor in gathering and printing these resources.

Ron Ellison
Beaumont, Texas
Rural life brings out the storyteller in everyone. This observation seems especially true in the American South, where country folk still predominate both in numbers and in cultural importance. Whether sitting on the back porch recounting past adventures or transcribing tales into prose, East Texans are certainly not immune from this pervasive need to preserve the past in anecdote and illustration. In *Chinqua Where?*, Fred McKinley, a son of East Texas now living in South Carolina, provides a colorful collection of stories from his childhood sure to remind many rural readers about their own pasts.

McKinley was born during World War II and spent his youth in Chinquapin, Texas, a tiny hamlet nestled deep in the Piney Woods of San Augustine County. His reminiscences of growing up in this rural enclave, surrounded by extended family and reared by the entire community, provide enjoyable hours of reading. In Chinquapin, world events rarely intruded—with the exception of Hank Williams' death, a tragedy nearly without equal in McKinley's remembrance. The characters who people these tales are an amusing mix of wise elders and mischievous children, loving parents and stern, quarreling church members. What they all shared was a deep and abiding love of the place in which they lived and of their neighbors, a love that McKinley obviously feels as well. Like the Idaho humorist Patrick McManus, who entertained a generation of boys with his stories about growing up among the woods and waters of the North Country, Fred McKinley tells stories that will appeal both to the young, who have these adventures ahead of them, and to older readers who wish that were so again.

Mark Barringer
Stephen F. Austin State University


Just when Jasper thought the James Byrd murder was about to become a part of East Texas history, along comes Ricardo Ainslie, a psychologist and psychoanalyst who teaches at The University of Texas, with an analytical study of Bill King, one of Byrd's killers.

Ainslie does not shed new light on the Byrd murder itself, but that is just as well. Jasper and the rest of East Texas have heard enough.

Ainslie does construct an interesting profile of Bill King, who was not raised in a racist family and had African American friends in childhood, but ended up on death row for viciously killing a black man.
Reading Ainslie’s book, you come away with the perception that the author somehow bonded with King. He concludes that “without the burden of responsibility that King bears for his actions and for the manner in which his life has unfolded, I believe King’s failures, in the end, are our collective failures ... we may be able to extinguish the life, but we can never erase the fact that Bill King is, ultimately one of us.”

I suspect that is exactly what Bill King wanted Ricardo Ainslie to believe.

Bob Bowman
Lufkin, Texas


Editor Richard Etulain has brought together fifteen essays by some of the American West’s finest authors. Their task was to write a brief biography on one or more prominent Westerners, and then place these figures within the context of a particular historical period or movement. For instance, William Lang centers his essay on exploration by focusing on Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and the Englishmen George Vancouver and David Thompson. Mark T. Harvey examines the Progressive Era through a look at James J. Hill, Jennette Rankin, and John Muir. Carl Abbott brings us into the contemporary high-tech world with his essay on Microsoft’s Paul Allen.

Thus the combined essays provide us with the broad sweep of American West history from the European invasion, centering the discussion on representative persons for their age. Etulain, so knowledgeable on historiography, completes the work with an admirable bibliographical essay. It is a novel idea and one that succeeds. As editor Etulain explains “Americans enjoy biography.” He might have said that all people love biography, for it tells us something of the stirring lives of significant persons while helping us to reflect on how each of us conducts our own life. Reading biographies is a rewarding enterprise.

Readers of this journal will particularly enjoy Cheryl Foote’s essay on Stephen Austin and doña María Gertrudis Barceló (better known as doña Tules of New Mexico) as land agent and gambler on the Mexican borderlands. But one should not restrict reading to one’s regional interests. Jon Hunner’s essay on “Rosie the Riveter,” the only mythical person in the book, and Robert Oppenheimer will certainly transcend any geographical regions, as will Katherine Aiken’s revealing piece on evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson.

Clearly, Richard Etulain sees this gathering of essays as a new way to teach the history of the American West. It is unique. I know of no former effort
to combine Western history with the attraction of biographies of interesting and important people. However, because of this attractive format the book will find a large audience outside the classroom. We enjoy well-written essays on the lives of other people, and if it can be done in the context of learning of the broad sweep of Western United States history, then the reader is, indeed, in for a treat.

Robert W. Righter
Southern Methodist University


Franklin D. Roosevelt’s unsuccessful “Court-packing” scheme in 1937 has been well-documented in constitutional history. This third volume of essays in the M.E. Sharpe Library of Franklin D. Roosevelt Studies, however, aptly examines the larger impact that FDR had on American law and politics as a result of his conflict with and influence on the United States Supreme Court. Inspired by the “FDR After 50 Years” conference held at Louisiana State University in 1995, this anthology of ten articles reflects a wide range of Roosevelt scholarship. Subjects include the clash between the public image and the inner workings of the Supreme Court, the effects of domestic politics on the Court, FDR’s significant appointments (Hugo Black, Felix Frankfurter, and William O. Douglas), and the “uncertain” legacy of the Roosevelt Court.

Two selections are particularly notable. In light of the current “culture wars” and controversy over the role of religion in public life, political scientist Stephen K. Shaw’s excellent essay on the Roosevelt Court legacy regarding the First Amendment jurisprudence of religion is well-worth reading; the Court’s affirmation of the separation of church and state remains a basic principle of constitutional law. Historian Harvey G. Hudspeth evaluates the “uncertain” legacy of the Roosevelt Court. He argues that the Court repudiated the past by embracing economic liberalism but failed “to leave a clear blueprint for the future” (p. 218). Ideological differences, personality clashes, and new issues caused the Court to be “just as badly divided in 1947 as it had been a full decade earlier” (p. 238). Nevertheless, Hudspeth maintains that the “persistent and final triumph of economic liberalism” remains “Roosevelt’s legacy in constitutional law” (p. 238).

This anthology, along with other volumes in this series, provides both general readers and academicians a worthwhile source of recent scholarship on the Roosevelt presidency.

Mark W. Beasley
Hardin-Simmons University

At his death from complications of a stroke in 1895, John L. O'Sullivan was remembered for his efforts to abolish capital punishment in the 1840s, but obituaries did not mention his editing the United States Magazine and Democratic Review, or the term, “manifest destiny,” by which he is best known today. It was in 1927 that Julius Pratt, a diplomatic historian, traced the term back to the U. S. Magazine of 1845, and wrote “probably” the author was O'Sullivan. In the 1960s, textbooks attributed the term to O'Sullivan, and Sampson sees the editor as the sole contributor of manifest destiny materials in any of O'Sullivan’s publications.

Primarily, Sampson focuses this study on O’Sullivan’s early years while he edited the Georgetown Metropolitan, United States Magazine and Democratic Review, and the Morning News. The book covers in detail the intricacies of New York politics in the 1840s, O’Sullivan’s role as a political go-between, and briefly scans his Cuban filibuster operations. The weakness of the book is that Sampson devotes ten chapters to the first thirty-three years of O’Sullivan’s life, and in the last twenty pages crams the remaining thirty-eight years of his marriage, friendships, uses of famous people, conversion to Catholicism, and obsession with spiritualism. Briefly mentioned are O’Sullivan’s political activities in Portugal during the 1850s, an agent for the Confederacy in the 1860s, numerous financial schemes, and that he and his childless wife survived by selling her New York property. The book contains many citation errors. For example, the book is based on the dissertation by Sheldon H. Harris, “The Public Career of John L. O’Sullivan,” yet in the bibliography Nathan O. Hatch is shown as author, and Harris as author of other publications. More errors of identification are scattered throughout the book.

Linda S. Hudson
East Texas Baptist University


In the presidential election in 1964, Lyndon Johnson’s landslide appeared to herald a continuation of an expanded domestic social agenda that began with Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal. Many political analysts and journalists of the period concluded that the Democrat’s social and economic policies would continue indefinitely. After all, Johnson’s popular vote margin over Republican presidential nominee Barry Goldwater was the largest in American history. In the electoral vote, only Franklin Roosevelt’s sweep in 1936 exceeded Johnson’s 486 to fifty-two vote margin.
Historian Gary Donaldson concluded that Johnson’s landslide victory was the beginning of the end of the New Deal coalition. The archconservatives who backed Goldwater seized the agenda from the Eastern, so-called Rockefeller Republicans who had dominated the party for generations. While the Vietnam War eroded Johnson’s popularity after 1965, the Civil Rights issue became the true dividing issue in the nation’s political body. Goldwater set the stage for a new generation of Republicans who based their growth on white voters in the South, West, and Midwest. Concerns over crime, education, and expansion of the federal government—all linked to the programs and policies to expand civil rights, helped establish the agenda for the new Republican Party. As Donaldson stated, even though he faded from the political stage, “Goldwater set the platform for the future of the Republican Party” (p. 307).

Donaldson provides a thorough examination of this election as the harbinger for the remainder of the twentieth century. He makes extensive use of primary sources on Johnson, Goldwater, George Wallace, and other major players during this era. He also provides a strong discussion of Wallace, whose star rose during the 1960s as resistance to the civil rights movement increased in states outside of the old Southern Confederacy. Donaldson wisely included discussion of the role of the media during the election of 1964. Many historians erred television coverage of the Kennedy-Nixon election in 1960 as pivotal in determining the outcome. The election of 1964, without televised presidential debates, was the first presidential election with a media strategy designed for television. Goldwater spent more on television advertising than Johnson. The Republican campaign attempted to run ads that focused on “race riots, drug dealing and crime” (p. 253). Those never appeared in 1964, but they set the stage for future television attack ads for national and local candidates.

Gary Donaldson’s Liberalism’s Last Hurrah is a strong, comprehensive examination and readable account of this critical era in American history.

Patrick Cox
Center for American History


Why read a fifty-year-old work of history, much less a book about that fifty-year-old book? For one thing, these essays on the continuing influence of C. Vann Woodward’s classic study exhibit the same sprightly prose as the book on which they comment. For another, the arguments that Woodward advanced and synthesized remain either accepted dogma or part of an ongo-
ing debate. Woodward insisted that the Redeemers who controlled the post-Reconstruction South were more villains than heroes. These representatives of the elite convinced the middle and lower classes to follow them into an alliance with the elite of the industrial Northeast, an alliance that left the South poorer and worse off. These were basically new men, with new attitudes. It was this insistence on newness that most remember about Origins of the New South. Woodward's Southerners, Texans included, experienced significant discontinuity in the mid-nineteenth century, and by the 1880s new men and new ways dominated the scene. Woodward also insisted that the Southern black experience and white experience were intricately connected. One could not be considered without the other.

After an able introduction in which Bethany Johnson points out that Woodward caught the historiographical wave and synthesized recent scholarship instead of simply creating a new view, the editors present a series of comments and critiques on Origins of the New South.

Organized in the order in which they appeared in print, among the most important of these are Carl V. Harris' article published in 1976 that convincingly demonstrated that Southern congressmen usually voted with western agrarians instead of Northeastern industrialists, and James Tice Moore's article published in 1978 that showed considerable continuity in Southern politics. After reflections on his work by Woodward, the book moves into a series of essays and comments by participants in a symposium at Rice University held in 2001. Among the most interesting of these is Harold D. Woodman, "The Political Economy of the New South: Retrospects and Prospects." Woodman points out that while plantation size and land ownership remained virtually unchanged from 1850 to 1880, by 1890 a type of neo-plantation had emerged. This neo-plantation—something found across East Texas—differed in that closely supervised wage labor and sharecroppers provided the muscle that raised the crops instead of slaves or tenants. This argument, as is often true of critiques of Woodward, modifies and refines his basic point about discontinuity in the South, but leaves the rough outline of what he said fifty years ago intact. Thus, Woodward's work continues to be relevant while most history books of that age gather dust.

Walter L. Buenger
Texas A&M University