

# New Mexico Historical Review

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Volume 34 | Number 2

Article 6

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4-1-1959

## Book Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

. "Book Reviews." *New Mexico Historical Review* 34, 2 (1959). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol34/iss2/6>

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## Book Reviews

*An Apache Campaign in the Sierra Madre. An Account of the Expedition in Pursuit of the Hostile Chiricahua Apaches in the Spring of 1883.* By John G. Bourke, Captain, Third Cavalry, U. S. Army. Introduction by J. Frank Dobie. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1958. Pp. 128. \$2.75.

Captain John G. Bourke spent nearly half of his allotted fifty years fighting, befriending, studying, and writing about the Apache Indians. As a result he became a foremost authority on the Western Apaches and left important records of his contact with them. He not merely told of his campaigns against these people; he contributed immeasurably to our knowledge of their folklore and customs. *The Medicine Man of the Apache* is described by J. Frank Dobie in his introduction to the present volume as "the meatiest thing that has appeared on medicine men of any American tribe." It is worth noting that Bourke was president of the American Folklore Society when he died and was as much at home with anthropologists as he was with his Apaches.

His finest quality, however, was his regard for human beings of all complexions. The Apaches were not specimens to him; they were people whom he respected and sometimes admired. This warmth of heart, assisted by his sense of humor and his feeling for landscape, makes his description of Crook's expedition of 1883 a real classic.

Driven by hunger and the white man's double dealing, the Chiricahuas had left the San Carlos Reservation—710 of them, men, women and children. The Mexicans attacked them in Chihuahua and they took refuge in the wilds of the Sierra Madre far below the International Boundary. General George Crook with three skeleton companies of cavalry and 200 Apache scouts, went in after them in April, 1883.

Bourke knew those Apache scouts and describes them from intimate knowledge. Whenever he could, he joined them in their activities. He even took part in a sweat-lodge

ceremony, and when he was required to sing, he gave them a loud rendition of "Our Captain's Name Is Murphy."

After a fearfully hard trip into the high sierra, the expedition finally caught up with the surprised Chiricahuas, who had believed their mountain fastness impregnable. They lost a couple of sharp skirmishes and began to come in, a few at a time, led by their chiefs Loco, Chihuahua, Gerónimo, Chato, Juh, and Nané. On June 15 Crook crossed the Arizona line with nearly 400 of them in tow.

Bourke's day-by-day account of the trials and hardships of that epic journey is still fresh and fascinating. No other Indian fighter has left us an account of such sympathetic intimacy, such tolerance and geniality. The original publishers have done well to reissue it as a reminder of a great soldier, scholar and gentleman.

Texas Western College

C. L. SONNICHSEN

*New Mexico's Royal Road: Trade and Travel on the Chihuahua Trail.* By Max L. Moorhead. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1958. Pp. xiv, 234. \$4.00.

Primarily this study is concerned with the development of trade and traffic between Mexico and New Mexico in a period of two and one-half centuries, 1598-1848, a trade that was extended to the Missouri country in the 19th century. It began with the founding of New Mexico by Juan de Oñate in 1598, when he established a colony, San Juan de los Caballeros, at the pueblo of San Juan, New Mexico's first capital. Santa Fe, the new capital, founded a dozen years afterward, gradually developed into a famous frontier center, and here traders, once they reached the Southwest, were sure to gather.

From Oñate's time, the lifeline to Mother Mexico had to be maintained and the colony supplied with the needs of civilized society—all sorts of manufactured articles and the more refined products of consumer goods as well. All appointments, too, came from Mexico—the governor, his staff, soldiers, colonists—from a thousand or more miles away;

likewise, missionaries and everything they needed had to be brought from the older establishments far to the south.

The trade and traffic by which New Mexico was supplied flowed over the trail originally pioneered by Juan de Oñate and his soldier-colonists in 1598, the story of which constitutes the first chapter of this volume. The author gives not only a general historical background, but identifies the chief stopping points along the trail, important since this was to be the route followed with almost no deviation for the next two hundred years.

Throughout this time, except for what came over this route New Mexico had almost no contact with the outside world. Occasional visits by foreigners at Santa Fe were so infrequent as to be insignificant. Shortly after 1800, however, the westward sweep of settlement in the United States crossed the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. At the same time, the outbreak of Mexico's struggle for independence ushered in a new era, marked by a weakening of old frontier restrictions. Traders from Missouri soon made their way to Santa Fe, bringing in goods more cheaply than they could be had in Mexico; this commerce was shortly extended to Chihuahua, Durango, and elsewhere. The author tells the story of the beginning of this international trade, estimates its extent and volume, methods of freighting and payment of bills, problems of international exchange, the support given to American merchants by their own government, Mexico's reaction to this commerce, the ever-increasing volume and its capitalization.

The author's major contribution in this work rests on this broad concept of the extent and significance of this trade. Writers in the past have dealt largely with its origin and beginnings, the activity of William Becknell and other pioneers of the 1820's. But the traffic from the United States, begun on a small scale, expanded rapidly, nor did it stop in Santa Fe, which was a small community, able to absorb only a part of the vast amount of goods it carried. The major portion was sent on to Chihuahua and points farther south, where it competed profitably with local trade.

The author continues the study to the Mexican War, when Mexico lost her northern outposts and they became a part of the United States. It is the story of the origin and development of trade and traffic on the oldest international route touching the United States. The book, well written and carefully documented, is a fine contribution to the literature of the Southwest.

Bancroft Library  
University of California

GEORGE P. HAMMOND

*George Curry: 1861-1947: An Autobiography.* Edited by H. B. Hening. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1959. Pp. xv, 336. \$6.50.

George Curry, one time governor of the Territory, fifty years and more prominent in New Mexico's history, died in Albuquerque on Nov. 24, 1947. He left behind him little of this world's goods, a monument to his honesty and integrity, because Curry held many positions in public life in an era in which officials were not too squeamish about means and methods of becoming wealthy. Governor Curry did leave to posterity, however, a manuscript telling in outline the story of his life, which was bequeathed to Horace Brand Hening, a long time personal friend, with the request that it be completed and published.

Governor Curry made a happy choice in selecting Mr. Hening as his literary executor. No one else, in this reviewer's opinion, could have achieved such a happy and scholarly result. Containing 336 pages, nine photographs, five drawings by Sam Smith, noted artist, and an adequate index, the book is a most valuable bit of New Mexicana. The book tells the colorful and interesting story of a man, born in Louisiana, the son of an officer in the Confederate Army, deprived of any formal education whatsoever, caught up in the backwash of the Civil War, a resident of Dodge City, Kansas, in the days of Bat Masterson and Wild Bill Hickok; the story of an apprenticeship in sutler's stores in the buffalo country in Texas; of leadership and participation in the stirring early day events in Colfax and Lincoln counties, New

Mexico; the story of service in the Spanish-American War, of friendship with Col. Theodore Roosevelt; of soldiering in the Philippine Islands after 1898; of service as Chief of Police of Manila and Governor of Samar Province under Governor-General William Howard Taft; the story of Curry's appointment as Governor of New Mexico; of his political battles in the closing months of the Territory; of his election to Congress after statehood; the recital of a host of exciting events in political life in New Mexico before statehood.

"George Curry, an Autobiography," is a remarkable book. All those interested in life in New Mexico about the turn of the century are greatly in Mr. Hening's debt. The book is an outstanding contribution to New Mexico history. "George Curry" deserves a place on the top shelf in any southwestern library.

Albuquerque

W. A. KELEHER

*The Letters of Antonio Martinez Last Spanish Governor of Texas 1817-1822.* Translated and edited by Virginia H. Taylor, assisted by Mrs. Juanita Hammons. Austin: Texas State Library, 1957. Pp. vi, 354, index.

Antonio Martinez, the last governor of Spanish Texas and first of the Mexican province, held a position of unusual interest and importance, yet he remains one of the least known public men of his times. As governor he dealt with Stephen and Moses Austin, and aided the American colonization of Texas; but source material for studying his personality and administration has remained rather inaccessible. That obstacle is now happily removed by the publication in translation of 807 letters he sent between May, 1817, and July, 1820, to Joaquín de Arredondo, Commandant General of the Eastern Provinces of the Viceroyalty of New Spain.

Martinez served the Spanish government from his appointment in 1817 until he took the oath of independence in 1820, and it is that service that is reported in these letters. His responsibilities included the protection of the eastern frontier of Texas and the Gulf Coast against threats of foreign aggression, destruction of smuggling and intrigue in the

same areas, protection against Indian attacks, suppression of internal disorder and revolution, and development of a productive economy, especially in agriculture, to avert starvation. The occurrence of those problems and the actions Martinez took to meet them are vividly recounted in one letter after another. The governor was constantly handicapped by his lack of money, food, clothing, paper, medicine, seed, horses, soldiers, arms, ammunition, iron, and other essentials. Having little to work with, and failing to get adequate cooperation and support from the Viceroy and the commandant general, Martinez seemed constantly standing at the edge of disaster.

Many of the letters are routine requests and reports, doleful and often pathetic in tone. But their style, combining a high degree of formality, and appropriate deference to authority (carefully retained in the translations) sets off sharply the details of a harsh, rude existence in a poverty-stricken province. Monotonous routine is frequently broken by incidents of dramatic adventure, raids, escapes, pursuits, a disastrous flood (No. 532) and other events that provide an account of Spanish days in Texas unsurpassed by later writers.

The translator, Virginia H. Taylor, State Archivist of Texas, offers an exceptionally worth while volume prepared with great care. The helpful Preface and Introduction and an excellent index contribute to the value of the work. Presumably demands of economy account for the absence of all documentation.

Perhaps few but professional students of history will make use of *The Letters of Antonio Martinez*. The enjoyment of historical sources is no doubt an acquired taste. But any one who will take the trouble to read these letters will find in them a narrative full of adventurous detail and local color that will amply repay the effort; even the writers of "westerns" and television serials might improve their episodes by reading this collection.

Ohio University

HARRY R. STEVENS

*The Humor of the American Cowboy.* By Stan Hoig. Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1958. Pp. 193. \$5.00.

Anyone who is even vaguely familiar with the literature of the American cowboy is aware that it is laced and enlivened with numerous spirited stories, ludicrous incidents, and practical jokes—the cowboy was notorious as a prankster and as a droll- and tall-story teller. Under the most dire circumstances he was able to laugh and cuss— laugh and cuss at himself, his horse, and any other “critter” who crossed his path. In the past this ability charmed and convulsed his companions and contemporaries. The volumes of Ramon Adams, Edward E. Dale, J. Frank Dobie, Frank King, Emerson Hough, Philip A. Rollins, and R. M. Wright (to mention a few) prove this contention as they stand; it is further verified only in part, however, by the contents of *The Humor of the American Cowboy*. In fact this recent addition to “cowboyana” is a much-revised compilation of material from the above authors and others. Unfortunately, *en masse*, the altered humor fails to amuse and grows wearisome and naive as one diluted story, incident, and prank follows another, and particularly when removed from the original text—the smooth running prose of the authors.

In addition, the humor of the cowboy proves not so humorous when an individual as virile, manly, crude, and vulgar as he was does not produce a single earthy yarn or lusty story. For compiler Hoig, who admittedly has “read *scores* of books *by* cowboys,” (italics by reviewer) the opportunity to collect robust material was not lacking in his search; however, under his editorial pen much of its vigor is destroyed. The “classics”—Hough’s *The Story of the Cowboy*, and Rollins’, *The Cowboy* suffer artistically, but, when Dale’s *Cow Country*, King’s *Wranglin’ the Past*, and Price’s *Trails I Rode* get the treatment, it is pitiful. All the Anglo-Saxonisms become “doggone,” “dern,” “gosh,” “heck,” etc. This is no plea for the vulgar and obscene, and admittedly humor need not be offensive, yet in a specific study such as this, when

shall the truth have its day? Does not the compiler-editor, who claims to have lived among those who live close to nature, know that there is a reverence in their vulgarity? Must the American cowboy continually be portrayed as a shufflin', droolin' idiot who hasn't enough brains to wash the dung out of his hair? Is there no author or publisher willing to reveal the pungent and gross side of this breed of American? Certainly Hoig can make no valid claim that this collection is "salty." Frankly, there is not a hearty "sonofabitch" in the whole volume.

If this book is for adolescents, it lacks sincerity. Even they know that their "knights on horseback" were men among men, and for the adult it is too "doggone" lily-livered.

The format of the volume is attractive and shows the usual very good taste of the publisher. The illustrations by Nick Eggenhofer are of high quality but monotonously reminiscent.

University of Arkansas

CLIFFORD P. WESTERMEIER

*Centennial Colorado: Its Exciting Story.* By Robert G. Athearn & Carl Ubbelohde. Denver, Colorado: E. L. Chambers, Inc., 1959. Pp. 96, illus.

*Centennial Colorado* is excellent reading for those who want a quick summary of the history of Colorado. The text is beautifully illustrated to reveal not only the history but the scenic wonders of the state. About one-third of the book consists of pictures. The historian, the artist and the printer have pooled their talents in an admirable way. The end result pleases the eye and titillates the mind as the story unfolds from the days of the Cliff Dwellers to those of the Dude Wranglers. The hurried traveler, the lingering vacationer and the souvenir collector should find this a good buy.

F. D. R.