

# New Mexico Historical Review

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## Book Reviews

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## Book Reviews

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**THE WESTERN HERO IN HISTORY AND LEGEND.** By Kent Ladd Steckmesser. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965. Pp. xiii, 281. \$5.95.

MR. STECKMESSER'S excellent study of four Western heroes is one more title in the growing library of Western history that comes from the University of Oklahoma Press. I applaud a colophon that announces the book has been printed "on paper designed for an effective life of at least three hundred years," and I wish other university presses would follow the example of the University of Oklahoma Press in this regard. Recent reports from a committee of the American Association of Research Libraries about the impermanence of the paper on which even scholarly books are now published, and about the difficulty of preserving these books make the colophon all the more heartening.

This study has four panels, devoted in turn to Kit Carson, Billy the Kid, Wild Bill Hickok, and General George Armstrong Custer, men whom Mr. Steckmesser has selected as both typical Western men and the occasions of the legend-making process he is interested to analyze. In each case he begins with a sober factual account of the subject's actual life, something far less glamorous and heroic than legend. He then patiently traces the development of the epic figure who replaces the actual man, employing for his analysis everything from pamphlet and newspaper material to dime novels and journalistic biographies. He also pays attention to various theatrical versions of these careers, whether on the stage, in moving pictures, or on television.

The four central sections of his book are preceded by a general chapter demonstrating that the growth of the Daniel Boone legend is symptomatic of what is to come; and are followed by a chapter of philosophic analysis and an "Epilogue." The epilogue mainly concerns the later versions of the legends. The chapter preceding it is devoted to the proposition that the Western hero passes from actuality into epic proportions because he incarnates the "courage, self-reliance, and physical prowess" Americans have always admired. These legendary characters have "served good causes," are "servants of justice and truth, defenders of the meek and the

oppressed," "actors in the great allegory of Good versus Evil." In the later nineteenth century writers clean up the language imputed to the hero so that it becomes suitable for parlor and classroom consumption and more than hint at providential guidance of the hero as he outwits wild animals, defeats a tribe of Indians by some clever ruse, and performs feats of physical skill beyond those of Porthos in the Musketeer romances of Dumas.

I am not inclined to dispute Mr. Steckmesser's belief that a Manichaeian universe ("the great allegory of Good versus Evil") has attracted Americans, but I suggest that, ethics aside, the cleverness of the Western hero has equally appealed. We have liked "smartness" from the days of the fabulous wooden nutmegs of Connecticut, and our delight in seeing the Western hero outwit his enemies is the same delight we find in mystery stories.

Mr. Steckmesser says that the epification of the Western hero is largely the work of Eastern writers, and this is true. On the other hand, the West has gladly adopted the myth; and it would be difficult to say that the West is less enthusiastic about the Western hero than is the effete East. Indeed, Mr. Steckmesser himself cites an editorial from the *Los Angeles Times* in 1960 complaining about the kind of historical investigation into these biographies that turns up truth. Romantic myth is, shall we gently remark, of great commercial value to the tourist trade and to those who cater to the tourist trade.

Mr. Steckmesser has done what he has done so well that I hope he will continue. He does not have time, for example, to explore the life of the Western myth in American iconography, whether this concern the painters and etchers who made a specialty of Western characters, the railroad prospectuses and bank calendars, or the present comic strip, in which the Western hero is at one and the same time jeered at and admired. He mentions in passing the uses of song in maintaining the mythology; and here too, given the vogue of folk-song, is an interesting area to be explored. And though he remarks that the Western hero is in large part the creation of Eastern writers, I suggest it might be interesting to inquire why some of the great traditional historians like McMaster, Channing, Rhodes, and others have left these personages for local exploitation, remaining content, as it were, with a smile to indicate that neither Daniel Boone nor Kit Carson was quite the Homeric figure that legend fosters. They do not treat Cotton Mather, or Tom Paine, or the Little Giant, or U. S. Grant in quite this off-hand fashion.

HOWARD MUMFORD JONES

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VOL. XXX.

## WILD BILL, the Pistol Prince.

BY COLONEL PRENTISS INGRAHAM.



BOLDLY HE RAN AFTER THE BRUTE, CAME WITHIN PISTOL RANGE, AND, CONFIDENT IN HIS UNERRING AIM, FIRED.

THE AMERICAN ENLIGHTENMENT: THE SHAPING OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIMENT AND A FREE SOCIETY. Selected and edited with introduction and notes by Adrienne Koch. The American Epochs Series. New York: George Braziller, 1965. Pp. 669. Notes. \$8.50.

THIS IS THE LAST to be published and the second in chronological order of Braziller's six-volume American Epochs Series, under the general editorship of Frank Freidel. The series is "devoted to pivotal periods in American history as revealed in the thoughts and actions of the men and women who participated in the shaping of those periods." Apparently all of American history falls into one "pivotal period" or another, since among them the entire past of the country is comprehended. It is a useful series in that it makes available a wealth of original material as well as some excellent introductory essays by the six editors.

Professor Koch delineates the American Enlightenment by presenting selections from the writings of five brilliant thinkers of the golden age of American statesmanship: Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton. The book is useful not only for the most familiar and valuable public papers and private letters of these five giants presented in convenient form, but also for the inclusion of a number of less well known and enlightening writings. This is particularly true in the case of Hamilton and Madison. This reviewer felt warmer toward Hamilton after reading the book than he ever has before.

For a presentation of interesting and revealing writings of the five statesmen this book is superb. It is hard to find any fault with Professor Koch's selection of the writings she has included and her exclusion of others. Moreover, the introductory essay has merit. She defends the idea that there was indeed an American Enlightenment against various expressed and anticipated charges that there was no such thing.

But was her selection of Franklin, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Hamilton best in the light of her title and sub-title? Would Thomas Paine have been more worthy of inclusion than Hamilton if she felt she must limit herself to five?

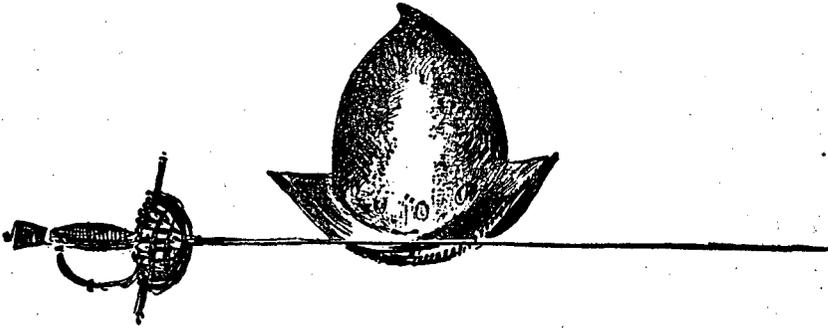
And why should she have limited herself to five? In another book in The Epochs Series there are selections from twenty-four men and women. Granting that that period, the colonial, does not lend itself so well to the selection of a few towering molders of thought as does that of the Revolution and the Young Republic, it still seems that such an exclusive selection was unwise. Professor Koch uses as a working definition of the European Enlightenment "that movement of thought in the eighteenth century when learned men in all of Europe sought to assimilate, popularize, ex-

tend, and apply the scientific and philosophic heritage of the 'new science' of the seventeenth century." Then by revealing the American Enlightenment through the writings of five men of whom three are important only for their ideas of and contributions to government, she implies that it was almost exclusively political.

It is true that it was in man's relationship to the state that the Americans of the first generation of the Republic made the greatest impression on western culture. But the spirit of the Enlightenment was expressed as well in science, in letters, in religion, and philosophy. Professor Koch's book would have been truer to its title if she had included selections from Benjamin Rush, Alexander Garden, Philip Freneau, Ezra Stiles, and Thomas Paine, to name a few.

Still, we welcome this last in the valuable American Epochs series; and we are particularly fortunate to have the thoughtful introductory essay by a scholar of Professor Koch's stature.

WILLIAM M. DABNEY



PETER HURD

**BOLTON AND THE SPANISH BORDERLANDS.** Edited by John Francis Bannon. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964. Pp. xi, 346. Bibliog., index, maps. \$5.95.

TO FORM THE BODY of this book Father Bannon of St. Louis University has selected seventeen "studies and pieces which he considers both indicative and typical of the much more extensive work" accomplished by Herbert Eugene Bolton in the history of those parts of North America to which he gave the name Spanish Borderlands. The editor supplies a general introduction, brief presentations of the individual items, and a bibliography of Bolton's publications arranged by year of appearance.

Bannon's point is that Bolton "was first and foremost the historian of the Borderlands." He notes, however, an "unfortunate and very real pos-

sibility" that the recurring controversy over "the so-called and misnamed 'Bolton thesis,'" popularly assumed to avow a "common history" for the Americas, may obscure his subject's "correct place in the history of American historical writing." Bannon's volume is intended to help place Bolton in his proper niche—with an appropriate offering of incense.

Two of the selections have not previously appeared in print. They are the memorandum in which Bolton in 1911 outlined to Benjamin Ide Wheeler, President of the University of California, the "Need for the Publication of a Comprehensive Body of Documents Relating to the History of Spanish Activity within the Present Limits of the United States," and the plan for a seminar given in Mexico City in the summer of 1946 which appears under the title "The Northward Movement in New Spain."

The editor groups the pieces into six sections. The first, called "The Borderlands in American History," consists of the memorandum to Wheeler and the essay on "Defensive Spanish Expansion and the Significance of the Borderlands." Section Two, "Approaches to the Borderlands," includes the outline for the Mexico City seminar; "Coronado in Perspective," an excerpt from *Coronado, Knight of Pueblos, and Plains*; "Preliminaries to 'The Spanish Occupation of Texas, 1519-1690,'" reprinted from *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*; and "The West Coast Corridor," taken from the *Proceedings* of the American Philosophical Society. Section Three, entitled "Defensive Character of the Borderlands," reproduces "Spanish Resistance to the Carolina Traders in Western Georgia, 1680-1704," from the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*; "French Intrusions into New Mexico, 1749-1752," from *The Pacific Ocean in History*; and "The Cession of Louisiana and the New Spanish Indian Policy," from the introduction to *Athanase de Mézières and the Louisiana-Texas Frontier, 1768-1780*. Section Four, labelled "The Southwest, a Mission Borderland," contains the essay on "The Mission as a Frontier Institution in the Spanish American Colonies;" "Kino in Pimería Alta," taken from the introduction to *Kino's Historical Memoir of Pimería Alta*; and "The Black Robes of New Spain." Section Five, headed "The Last Borderland: California," is made up of "The Early Explorations of Father Garcés on the Pacific Slope," from *The Pacific Ocean in History*; "Fray Juan Crespi with the Portolá Expedition," excerpted from the introduction to *Fray Juan Crespi, Missionary Explorer on the Pacific Coast, 1769-1774*; "Juan Bautista de Anza, Borderlands Frontiersman," from the introduction to *Anza's California Expeditions*; and "Escalante Strikes for California," a retitled reprinting of "Escalante Way—An Opportunity for the National Park Service," which appeared in the *American Planning and Civic An-*

*nual*: 1939. The last section, titled "The 'Other' Bolton," reprints "The Epic of Greater America" for purposes of contrast with the Borderlands material.

The need to exemplify both the sweep of Bolton's understanding and the factual and interpretive results of his topically more circumscribed research within a single volume appears to have presented the editor with his most difficult organizational problems. General characteristics and local developments are sometimes placed in relationships for which there is no discernible functional justification. It seems incongruous, for example, that the interpretive essay on "Defensive Spanish Expansion . . ." should appear elsewhere than in the section entitled "Defensive Nature of the Borderlands." Nor is it apparent what special circumstances warrant the unique characterization of the Southwest as "a Mission Borderland," or the assignment to that section of the general essay on "The Mission as a Frontier Institution. . . ."

Because of the familiarity of much of its content, the book derives its interest principally from the new and larger selection it affords of Bolton's expository and interpretative writings (including all those previously collected under the title *Wider Horizons of American History*), and the clarity with which it illustrates the scope of his vision, and the variety, quantity, and quality of his pioneering research and editing. As bonuses, Bannon offers some cogent and timely comments on the "common history" theme, and an interesting placement of "The Epic of Greater America" as a "conclusion" to this volume rather than as a "hypothesis" as it is stated in the opening essay in *Wider Horizons*. Finally, the volume provides a representative body of the evidence provided by Bolton upon which he based his assertion that the European frontier in North America, even if limited to that area which subsequently became the United States, was not exclusively the work of Anglo-Americans, nor was the direction of its movement invariably westward.

WILLIAM J. GRIFFITH

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF COLONEL ALBERT JENNINGS FOUNTAIN. By A. M. Gibson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965. Pp. vi, 301. Illus., map, bibliog., index. \$5.95.

OCCASIONALLY IT BECOMES the pleasure of a reviewer to examine a book so enthralling he is compelled to read it at one sitting with no immediate realization of a single flaw. Such a book is *The Life and Death of Colonel Albert Jennings Fountain*. Professor Gibson is to be commended for placing before the reading public, in addition to an excellent biography, a challenging analysis of one of the leading officially unsolved murders in the history of New Mexico. Perhaps he should be even more lauded for his courage in presenting details that persons who knew the full story, or thought they did, said would never be put in print.

Little is known of Fountain's life until 1861 when he enlisted in Company "E" of the First California Infantry Volunteers at Sacramento. He came to New Mexico with the California Volunteers in 1862 as an enlisted man. His ability was recognized and he rose rapidly in rank. He served at Fort Craig and at Fort McRae and soon established himself as an Indian guide and scout. This included duty patrolling the Jornada del Muerto rounding up Indians who had strayed from Bosque Redondo at Fort Sumner. He participated in numerous fights with the Apache and won an enviable reputation as an Indian fighter.

Soon after his arrival in New Mexico, he married sixteen-year-old Mariana Pérez of Mesilla. After his army service he moved, with his wife and growing family, to El Paso. There he became prominent in Republican politics and served as president of the Texas senate. After meeting with political misfortune in Texas, he returned to Mesilla and bent his considerable energy to strengthening the Republican party in southern New Mexico. He practiced law (he had studied under N. Greene Curtis of Sacramento) and established the *Mesilla Valley Independent*, a newspaper that he used to expound his own political philosophy. When called upon, he served as officer in command of the Mesilla Scouts and distinguished himself in campaigns against Indians and outlaws.

For twelve years he was a special United States district attorney, and prosecuted cattle theft and land fraud cases. On the eve of his death he was prominent in a Lincoln County grand jury investigation into cattle rustling, during which he had secured indictments against a number of ranchers. When last seen, on February 1, 1896, he was returning to Las Cruces from Lincoln. With him was his eight-year-old son, Henry. They vanished, and thus arose the Fountain mystery.

But the author says (p. 282) "To this day some people call it the Fountain mystery. But what is the nature of the mystery? Then, only those

who supported Fall and, now, only a few persons consider the identity of the murderers to be a mystery. There is, however, an element of mystery in the disposition of the bodies of Henry and Colonel Fountain. Even this can be explained without too much difficulty."

Indeed, much has been explained in effortless style. In controversial areas, nevertheless, Gibson has at times neglected to acknowledge that where controversy exists there are at least two sides of the story. Surely, more of the opposition's viewpoint could have been presented without weakening the case for Colonel Fountain. To that end, George Curry's autobiography should have been at least included in the bibliography, particularly since Curry is mentioned briefly in the book. Failure to use any court records is also regrettable. Newspapers of the period (which Gibson relied on heavily) were biased, and accounts of trial testimony in contemporary papers can hardly be accepted as a full substitute for court records.

This reviewer did not make an exhaustive check of quotations, but a few original sources were readily available and were compared with their counterparts in the book. The result was disappointing. The quotation cited in note 25, p. 272, shows numerous discrepancies: line 2, comma deleted after trial; line 4, Garrett added without square brackets; line 6, should read west instead of east, and murders (*sic*) instead of murderers; line 11, should be Van Patten's instead of Van Patton's; line 12, should read Indian's instead of Indian. The original letter is dated May 21, 1899, instead of May 31 as quoted (the trial started on May 25). But most important, information is missing from the citation which states that Garrett was "following a clue that is now almost a certainty . . ." In the book this reads "There is new evidence . . . that is now almost a certainty. . . ." This is significant when we turn to page 275 and find "The cow-stealing Mexicans whom Garrett was going to bring in had run off to Chihuahua." This is probably a deduction by the author (no source is given). It would be as logical (or more so) to deduce that the "clue" Garrett was following turned out to be a dud and that there were no "cow-stealing Mexicans" to bring in.

The reference cited in note 24, p. 272, is a letter copied in the office of T. B. Catron before the original was sent to W. B. Childers. Catron was apparently careful to copy the letter exactly, even including numerous misspelled words. As quoted, however, the letter is tidied up and spelling corrected. This is misleading because it gives the impression that the letter was written by a person more capable of good English usage than was the case. The reference contains the information that P. J. Daily (cited as T. J. Daily) of Larimore, North Dakota, had information about the

slaying of Fountain and volunteered to serve as a prosecution witness. It is significant that the portion quoted does not include the information that Daily requested transportation and expense money. Now we turn to page 275 and find the author's deduction that "The key witness from North Dakota lost his nerve and failed to arrive."

It so happens that T. B. Catron (Catron to Daily, May 25, 1899, Catron Papers, PC29, 105, vol. 15, p. 951-2) had sent Daily seventy dollars for transportation to New Mexico. Catron had earlier considered Daily's request as not excessive and indicated to Childers that Daily might be on the level and it was at least worth sending him money for transportation and expenses. By the time Catron wrote to Daily, though, he was already somewhat disillusioned and said, "You cannot afford to obtain money in this way and keep it or fail to comply." It is fully as logical to conclude that this volunteer witness had concocted a scheme to get an easy seventy dollars as it is to believe that he failed to arrive because he lost his nerve.

To limit to Tom Catron and W. T. Thornton the New Mexico attorneys who even came close to matching Fountain as a courtroom tactician (p. 138, 156) is an injustice. Catron considered Neill B. Field without peer in the Territory. John H. Knaebel and Frank W. Springer could hardly be excluded if one insists on a list of the best.

But these are pardonable defects in a basically splendid book. The writing is cogent and concise; furthermore, it is eminently readable. The editing is able, the bibliography well chosen, and the index helpful. It is not likely that there will be many persons interested in the history of the Southwest who will not find this volume a welcome addition to their library.

VICTOR WESTPHALL

**FORT UNION AND THE WINNING OF THE SOUTHWEST.** By Chris Emmett. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965. Pp. xvi, 436. Maps, illus., notes, bibliog., appendix and index. \$5.95.

**MANY A BOOK HAS SUFFERED** because the materials that went into it were scanty, or so widely scattered that the author could not track all of them down before he began composing. Here is a case where the study seems to have suffered because there was more material at hand than the author could compress into a manageable volume. The task of assimilating approximately 53,000 pages of material collected over the years by Pennsylvania businessman James W. Arrott, and now housed in the Rodgers

Library at Highlands University (Las Vegas, New Mexico), must have been an enormous challenge to Chris Emmett. As "the first and only researcher to have unrestricted access to Mr. Arrott's collection," to use the words of Librarian W. S. Wallace who wrote a foreword to the volume, the task of selection and rejection was understandably complex.

One of the problems to be faced in handling such a large body of raw material is that of producing a well-written, well-integrated story that flows easily and still furnishes the fine detail that so enriches such a study. Here the author's difficulties become apparent. His lines are filled with quotation marks that have no special meaning and his transitions are often rough. In a good many cases the editor accepted work that needed more sandpapering. Also, characters should be identified to the satisfaction of the reader as they are brought on the scene, and some explanation of their appearance is expected.

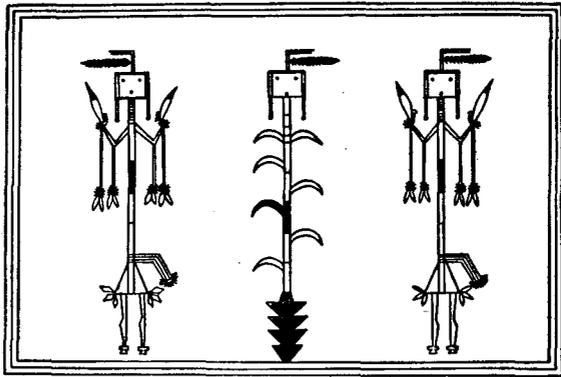
It is frequently hard to know where to begin such an account. Logically, one should begin at the beginning and the author does this, depicting the events of 1851 and the establishment of the Fort. But the reason for its founding has to be accounted for, and in order to understand this the reader is supplied with four chapters of background in which the events of the Mexican War in the Southwest are spelled out, and the chaos that followed is described. In this portion of the book, there is a fine discussion of the Texas-New Mexico boundary controversy and the problems it posed even after the 1850 compromise. However, it is not until chapter six that attention is again turned to 1851 and the beginnings of Fort Union. The next decade is one of chasing recalcitrant Indians, bickering with civilian authorities, daily life at the fort, and the problem of learning to live with a conquered race. The activity that was stimulated by the opening of the Civil War is well described in a chapter entitled "Rejuvenation."

The Confederate or "Texan" invasion of New Mexico in the spring of 1861 was a significant campaign that, for the moment, held great promise for Jefferson Davis's government. Its climax in 1862 at Glorieta Pass, on Fort Union's very doorstep, put that post in a pivotal position in a battle known as "The Gettysburg of the West." Unhappily, these are the least satisfactory chapters in the book. The whole movement and its significance not only for the Southwest, but for the entire country, ought to have been painted on a wider canvas. Again, one suspects that the author was attempting to emphasize fresh materials at hand, which often are sufficiently narrow to throw the larger picture out of focus. His preoccupation with one collection in one library is suggested on page 257, where he quotes Max Heyman's biography of General E. R. S.

Canby "quoting William I. Waldrip, 'New Mexico During the Civil War,' unpublished Master's Thesis, University of New Mexico, 1950." The thesis itself was available in nearby Albuquerque. When a primary source is available it is better to use it.

The major criticism of the work is that Fort Union, as depicted here, is somewhat isolated from other western military events. The bibliography does not suggest extensive use of the Reports of the Secretary of War, and other printed documents equally available, that would show major western military problems and their relation to this fort. In addition, Post Returns for individual forts are available on microfilm at the National Archives. While these are largely of a statistical nature, important events of the month are frequently noted. The title of the volume suggests Fort Union's role in the winning of the Southwest. What lies between the covers falls short of this promise.

ROBERT G. ATHEARN



HOSTEEN KLAH: NAVAHO MEDICINE MAN AND SAND PAINTER. By Franc Johnson Newcomb. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964. Pp. 227, frontispiece (color), map, 16 illus., bibliog., index. \$5.95.

THIS BOOK is a sympathetic biography of one of the most colorful and best known Navaho Indians of the past generation. Left Handed ("Hosteen Klah") became known to countless numbers of Americans for he attended two world's fairs as an exhibitor, the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1892-93 where he demonstrated weaving and the Century of Progress Exposition also in Chicago in 1934 where he made sandpaintings. Moreover he visited the shores of both oceans, the Atlantic at North-

east Harbor, Maine, and the Pacific at Santa Barbara, California, both times as the guest of the late Mary Cabot Wheelwright. Left Handed was known among his own people as an accomplished singer ("medicine man"), familiar with some six long and complicated ceremonials, one of the greatest authorities on the Night Chant and actually the last Navaho to know and perform the complete version of the Hail Chant, which therefore became extinct at his death. Several myths related by him have been the subject of important published books. Besides all this, Left Handed was distinguished by his family lineage for he was the great grandson of the famous chief Narbona (1766-1849), and by psychology, for he was one of the few well-known transvestites among the Navaho. Although he did not wear women's clothes he did become an expert weaver, which is women's work.

The author is well known to students of Navaho culture. The wife of a trader to the Navahos whose trading post was distinguished by having a postoffice named for his family, Newcomb, New Mexico, she developed an interest in Navaho history and ceremonialism and through her artistic talent she recorded as watercolor paintings some 500 sacred sandpaintings, many of which are on display in two important collections. Moreover she is the author or co-author of several previous books and articles. It was at the urging of Left Handed himself that Mrs. Newcomb began to write down the history of his people as he told it to her, so in a sense this book was originally inspired by him.

Part one, about one-fifth of the book, is devoted to the life and times of Left Handed's famous great grandfather, Chief Narbona. Mrs. Newcomb came to live in Left Handed's neighborhood in 1914 and soon developed a firm and lasting friendship with him and his family. After hearing his story of the past life of his people and that of his aged mother, Mrs. Newcomb set out to interview as many of the oldest Navahos in the region as possible. She succeeded in recording the recollections of four others before the influenza epidemic of 1919-20 took its toll of most of the older Navahos. These records reposed in Mrs. Newcomb's files for some forty years before they became the basis of this interesting and useful account of events and Navaho life during the half-century prior to the captivity at Fort Sumner. One of Narbona's daughters and her Hopi husband were Left Handed's grandparents. Dominating the country east of the Chuska and Tunicha Mountains, Narbona was able to command a thousand warriors. At the age of 83, in 1849, Narbona was killed by the soldiers of Colonel Washington's expedition, and less than two decades later the Navahos were taken on the long walk to Fort Sumner in eastern New Mexico, as prisoners of war. The story of this period, which was a

turning point in Navaho affairs and which was used by them thereafter as an epochal fixed date in relating their recent history, is given in part two. This section of the book is devoted to the story of "Grandma Klah," Left Handed's mother, who was a young woman when she was taken to the Bosque Redondo (Fort Sumner). She was married there and Left Handed was born in 1867 during the family's halt at Fort Wingate, New Mexico, on their return to their homeland.

Part three, the rest of the book, is the biography of Left Handed himself; his boyhood; how he learned the Hail Chant from an uncle while still a young boy; how his mother, an expert weaver, taught him to weave; how he made himself a recognized authority on the Night Chant and became perhaps the greatest exponent of that ceremonial of his time; his travels to two world's fairs and to both coasts of the United States; his meeting with the Crown Prince of Sweden; his loneliness after the death of his sister in 1936; and his final illness and death from pneumonia in 1937. From 1914 on this biography is based on the intimate friendship and companionship between Left Handed and the Newcomb family. He sang the Blessingway rite over Mrs. Newcomb's newborn children, and became her mentor in her studies of sandpaintings and ceremonialism. In her account of his ceremonial activities there are tantalizing references to several extinct or obsolete ceremonials which have never been described (pp. 106-107). If she has further notes on these let us hope that she will publish them sometime. Another intriguing bit is two references to a heretofore unpublished form of divination, a trip to the "Page of Prophecy at the Shining Sands" where markings in the sand of the river at the "Meeting Place of Waters" were interpreted (pp. 27-29, 169).

A considerable part of the reasons for Left Handed's fame is the fact that he and two of his nieces working under his direction were the only Navaho weavers who dared to trifle with supernatural injunctions and reproduce some of the sacred sandpaintings accurate in design and color on their looms. He was encouraged to do this by Mrs. Newcomb in 1920 and a colored picture of his first sandpainting tapestry forms the frontispiece of this book. Mrs. Newcomb's account of the manufacture of these famous tapestries and of the present provenience of most of the twenty-five that he wove and the almost equal number made by his nieces is the first full account to be published.

For students of Navaho ceremonialism perhaps an equally interesting and valuable portion of this book is the description of the inception, the construction, and the purpose of the Museum of Navajo Ceremonial Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This unique institution was founded by the late Mary Cabot Wheelwright who met Left Handed at the New-

comb home in 1921. A well-known and colorful figure in the Southwest during the next three or four decades herself, she decided in 1931 to build a museum to house Left Handed's family heirlooms, his ceremonial paraphernalia, some of his sandpainting tapestries, recordings of his songs and prayers, and reproductions of his sandpaintings made by Mrs. Newcomb. Thus this "house of Navaho religion" became a memorial to Left Handed. It contains his sculptured bust done by Allen Clarke and his body is buried in an inconspicuously marked grave among the junipers nearby. It was also the happy circumstance of the meeting of Miss Wheelwright with Mrs. Newcomb and Left Handed that led to the following years of co-operation among the three of them in assembling the notable body of data concerning Navaho ceremonialism which is also housed in the museum. An excellent photograph of Miss Wheelwright faces page 191 of the book. She died in 1958 and now this book by her friend and colleague stands with the unique museum that she founded, as stated in the last lines of the book, "as a memorial to two great people, Mary Cabot Wheelwright and Hosteen Klah."

In reviewing a book oriented to the general lay reader it is neither appropriate nor necessary to indulge in carping over anthropological differences of opinion. It might be mentioned in passing, however, that certain passages would have been made more palatable to the anthropological reader if the author had sought the advice of someone with some measure of linguistic training on the best way to transliterate Navaho words with English letters. A reader familiar with Navaho ceremonialism and native terms, however, can figure out her recordings and to others it does not matter.

LELAND C. WYMAN

**KAIBAH, RECOLLECTIONS OF A NAVAJO GIRLHOOD.** By Kay Bennett. Great West and Indian Series, XXVII. Los Angeles: Westernlore Press, 1964. Pp. 253. Illus. \$7.50.

THIS IS AN ACCOUNT of Mrs. Bennett's own childhood on the eastern portion of the Navaho reservation during the years 1928 to 1935. Despite the dust jacket claim to "amazingly important" revelations concerning Navaho ceremonials, superstitions, and healing rituals, students of the Navaho will find nothing new here.

The value of this book is its simple and unspectacular description *by* a Navaho of a Navaho girl's development from childhood to youth. Mrs. Bennett's childhood seems not to have been greatly different from that of hundreds of other girls except for the accidents of place and cultural

heritage. Kaibah, Mrs. Bennett is saying, is a girl like every other one except that she is also a Navaho Indian.

Mrs. Bennett's description of everyday life in a Navaho home will prove rewarding to the general reader, although it should be noted that her home was what we would term today an upper middle-class Navaho home. It is worthwhile to learn, for instance, that Navahos mourn their dead and their grief is quite as profound as ours; that Navaho children are frightened by the initiation rite of the Yei-be-chai ceremony, much as our own would be; and, that Navaho children are quite as irresponsible in their performance of household tasks as are their white contemporaries.

The historian might wish that Mrs. Bennett had devoted more space to the impact of the depression and the sheep reduction program on Navaho life, but her brief account does evoke the mood of bewilderment and frustration which these events brought to the Navaho country. Her chapters on life at the reservation boarding school are valuable for their insight into the clash between Navaho and white American values.

The Westernlore Press has an unfortunate tendency to claim more for its volumes than it actually delivers. While this is an interesting little book, it is not very profound and it contains several annoying typographical errors that could have been avoided with a little effort (pp. 119, 168, 195). The price is excessive.

LAWRENCE C. KELLY

**PIONEERING IN ARIZONA: THE REMINISCENCES OF EMERSON OLIVER STRATTON & EDITH STRATTON KITT.** Edited by John Alexander Carroll. Tucson: Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, 1964. Pp. vii, 178. Illus., maps, index.

E. O. STRATTON arrived in Arizona from California in 1874 and spent the rest of his life chasing the pot of gold at the foot of the rainbow. He finally found the pot and moved to San Francisco where he spent the last few years of his life, passing away at the age of seventy-eight. His career is an interesting example of the term "rugged individualism." Stratton turned his hand to any kind of work that offered pay, but his heart was really attuned to mining, so he was never far away from an interest in some claim.

The Reminiscences were dictated to his daughter, Edith Stratton Kitt, during the last few months of his life. They reveal a remarkable memory, and offer a storehouse of information in capsule form on a great many pioneers of Territorial Arizona.

Mrs. Kitt's memoirs cover fifty-three pages of this small book. Her girlhood experiences were typical of those of children growing to adulthood, except that the incidents remembered are associated with life on a ranch and her few years as a school teacher. One cannot but sense her warmth of heart and enjoy her wit, all expressed in a simplicity of style that makes pleasant reading. They are nostalgic reading for a "senior citizen."

In 1925, Mrs. Kitt was appointed secretary of the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society and devoted the next twenty-two years toward developing a research center for the history of Arizona under the auspices of the Society. After this worthy service she was drawn to other jobs of an historical nature, but now is planning a long vacation beginning in December of this year to celebrate her eighty-sixth birthday.

The editor gives credit to a number of persons who worked on the manufacturing of this book—they deserve it because the job is well done:

FRANK D. REEVE

**CATTLE-RAISING ON THE PLAINS OF NORTH AMERICA.** By Walter Baron von Richthofen. Introduction by Edward Everett Dale. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964. Pp. xviii, 120. \$2.00.

THE WESTERN FRONTIER LIBRARY of the University of Oklahoma Press rolls right along with its 24th volume, this time a reprint of the Baron Von Richthofen's publication of 1885, which has become quite scarce. It is a pleasure to welcome this new edition, and to have the Baron placed in context by so distinguished a western writer as Edward Everett Dale.

Walter Baron Von Richthofen, an uncle of Manfred Baron Von Richthofen, the German flying ace of World War I, was born in Silesia in 1848. After considerable military service he wound up in Denver, where his English wife and his two daughters for three years became a part of the social and civic scene. At the end of this period he received a divorce from his wife, after which he returned to Denver as a gay bachelor. He promoted all over the place and eventually promoted for himself a second wife and a castle of grey stone which became a Denver landmark. He died in 1898, barely fifty years old.

It is perhaps typical of the times, place, and the man that Von Richthofen is best remembered for his book on cattle-raising. It is typical, because the Baron was never a ranchman. He may have been a partner, but his name does not show on the membership list of any livestock association nor is his brand to be found in any brand book.

Instead, in his book the Baron did what he did best: promote. He dismissed the myth of the Great American Desert with the statement that the area should be renamed "the new West." He sold the idea of the West to anyone who would read his book. Always a bull, if the reader will forgive that expression here, he believed that Western ranches and cattle were far below their real worth, that prairie stock was healthier and developed more rapidly than Eastern domestic stock, and that cattle-raising was, in the words of one of his chapter titles, "a legitimate and safe business." Herd losses could be confined to an average of two to three percent per annum, while a three-year-old steer ought to bring a net profit of around thirty-four dollars. With luck one Texas cow worth thirty dollars would have eight steer calves in ten years, which would lead to a profit of \$272 on the thirty-dollar investment. If you started with one hundred cows, in ten years you ought to have 2856 animals, of which nearly 1500 would be steers. The mathematics and profit possibilities are compelling.

If Von Richthofen was over-optimistic, so were a lot of other more experienced cattlemen in the year 1885. The next two years would disenchant many of them, but books like Von Richthofen's presented their figures with such logic that the West seemed truly the place to come. Undoubtedly these books helped speed the settlement of that once great American desert.

Quite apart from its promotional aspects the book has value because of its detailed, realistic descriptions of the Plains country and its lists of leading cattle companies of the early 1880's. It is a book that must be consulted by anyone writing on the latter nineteenth-century West.

JOE B. FRANTZ