New Mexico Historical Review

Volume 38 | Number 3 Article 5

7-1-1963

Book Reviews

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Rebel of The Rockies: A History of the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad. By Robert G. Athearn. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1962. Pp. xv, 395. Maps, illustrations, bibliography, index. $10.00.

This is the well-told history of what started from Denver as a narrow gauge line heading toward El Paso and developed instead into a standard gauge route to Salt Lake City. Almost as soon as the Rio Grande was beaten at the Raton Pass entrance to New Mexico by the Santa Fe Railroad, it began clashing with its larger rival over the Royal Gorge and eventually won this vital route to the booming silver town of Leadville. Aside from a branch casually thrust down to Santa Fe and a later spur to Farmington, the narrow gauge turned aside from New Mexico to serve many mining camps of southwestern Colorado and to "liberate" Utah from the Union Pacific-Central Pacific monopoly there. Its own domain was invaded by the Denver, South Park, and Pacific and by the Colorado Midland, whose competition helped force the Rio Grande to widen its main line to standard gauge. The D&RG fell into the hands of financier George Gould, who in 1905 began constructing the Western Pacific and helped finance it by placing a crushing share of the expense on the older road, wringing out the money by scandalous neglect of essential maintenance. The inevitable bankruptcy and reorganization, 1918-1924, placed the D&RG under the joint ownership of the Western Pacific and Missouri Pacific. The latter, connecting with the D&RG at Pueblo, had little interest in the proposed construction of a direct line from Denver to Salt Lake City; after much controversy the state helped finance the Moffat tunnel and finally in 1934 the opening of the Dotsero cut-off to the main line of the Rio Grande completed the short route. In 1935 bankruptcy again struck the mountain railroad, its receivers spent large sums on rehabilitation, and when reorganized in 1947 the road emerged in excellent condition to

handle a large volume of business. By this time local hauling was not nearly as important a source of revenue as through transcontinental traffic.

Rebel of the Rockies is certainly a good book, neatly organized, clearly written, enlivened with apt quotations and colorful incidents, well balanced, judicious and clearly pointing out major trends without going into exhaustive details. It shows the unfortunate aspects of the railroad's history frankly enough that some men ought to be turning over in their graves. Helpful maps, interesting illustrations and a thorough index are included.

University of Idaho WILLIAM S. GREEVER

My Life on the Range. By John Clay. With an introduction by Donald R. Ornduff. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1962. Pp. xxiii, 372. $5.95.

What do you say about John Clay's *My Life on the Range?* Hailed almost immediately as a classic of Western Americana when it appeared nearly forty years ago, it has enhanced its luster as the decades have rolled on. The chief complaint against the book has been that it is hard to find, and expensive to purchase. Now in this new edition that complaint has been laid aside.

Re-reading Clay's classic merely reinforces the feeling that here is one of the enduring books of the American cattle industry. No sentimentalist, Clay can conjure up visions of a land and a time with "a freedom, a romance, a sort of mystic halo" without ever once descending to the maudlin. Perhaps it is because he is always perceptive, invariably astringent in a civilized sort of way, as when, speaking of astute Henry Miller, he writes that to "know him was an inspiration, to trade with him was an education."

This book is an education—in content, in style, and in point of view. Not only does it portray a half-century of the Western cattle industry through the eyes of a prime participant, but it analyzes such facets as a Cheyenne cattlemen's

club, stocking a ranch, controlling range diseases, and handling livestock loans, to name only a few. It is a manual and a guide, except that it sustains interest, no matter how technical the subject under discussion.

Let's face it. *My Life on the Range* deserves the accolades heaped on it by undereducated (in book-learnin') Cowhands, by Western buffs and scholars, and by that least starry-eyed bunch of academic strays, the bibliographers. I for one salute Donald R. Ornduff of *The American Hereford Journal* and the University of Oklahoma Press for making it available to me at the price of a good sirloin (medium rare) at the Stockyards Inn.

University of Texas JOE B. FRANTZ

Cochiti: A New Mexico Pueblo, Past and Present. By Charles H. Lange. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1960, Pp. xxiv, 618. Bibliog., illust., index. $10.00.

Freshly published technical volumes sometimes receive hurried reviews which toss them to the public with a dutifully gay splash or drop them with a few laboriously sophisticated criticisms re scope or readibility. It is thus the more pleasant to reflect at leisure on a volume for which the publication date reads three years ago.

Lange's *Cochiti* still is next to the last major publication to have appeared in Pueblo ethnology, a field which remains uncrowded because the original data is far from easy to come by. And Lange's book, after its two years plus debut is well on its way to becoming a classic which offers material of interest to readers in several fields.

While a student in the anthropology department of the University of New Mexico, Lange began the study on Cochiti economics which resulted in his dissertation. Through a seven year period of intermittent study (1946-1953), this was enlarged by field work to round out knowledge of present conditions in the pueblo and by collection of unusually full data from widely assorted earlier sources. As he points out, com-

parative statements referring to other pueblos have been kept at a minimum; the work is essentially a detailed ethnography, although the pueblo is placed in perspective among its Rio Grande associates.

Lange lived in Cochiti pueblo for 12 weeks during the summer of 1947, five in the summer of 1948, and six in 1951. Such an arrangement, which would not have been possible in the conservative eastern pueblos until recently, permitted him to really know the people and to participate in many of their activities. He found a number of the men glad to cooperate in recording material, even on the usually secret subject of katcinas, for the express purpose of saving this knowledge for the rapidly acculturating younger generation. This opinion in itself was witness to the considerable acculturation of the informants, although their desire for anonymity proved that the old conservative feeling for secrecy which has made work on the eastern pueblos so difficult in the past still was known in Cochiti.

The most important matter to Lange and his informants was that the record should be accurate, as the popular and often erroneous accounts sometimes seen by Pueblo people are a source of irritation.

Now, with the book having been out before the public for several years, what is the feeling of the people of Cochiti toward it? This is a point of major concern to anthropologists, as some who put out reports on the basis of secret collection of data in past years were threatened with dire reprisal from a pueblo should they dare enter it again.

Cochiti, today, is proud of the book. Most of the villagers were involved in its composition and most of them consider it to be a good document. Gaining a consensus of opinion on most matters has resulted in elimination of all but a very few unimportant errors. Many of the elders who participated now are gone, and although there originally was some disagreement in certain families as to whether information should or should not be given, the young adults of today who are most closely allied to the esoteric material of the various reli-

gious groups are very glad that this knowledge has been saved. Moreover, participation in the project of setting down a description of the old way of life has led them to a fresher realization of the fact that their culture held many virtues which could be appreciated by the outside world. Conserving this in print was an initial step now followed by permitting photography even of ceremonial dances, open house to visitors, tape recording of old songs, and a general feeling of good-willed freedom to those who seek information.

The primary descriptions in this volume are economic: resources, property concepts, ownership, agricultural economy, food preparation and diet; hunting, including implements used, the Hunt society, communal hunting drives or "surrounds," pit traps, the use of red ochre for improving one's vision during hunts, and the ceremonial proceedings necessary when an eagle, bear or mountain lion is killed and brought into the village. The gathering of salt a generation ago from the salt lakes of the Estancia Valley, the use of turquoise, the collection of gypsum and its conversion into whitewash for house walls, the collection and use of various wild plants, basketry (only the yucca twilled basket), pottery making, weaving (in the past), and trading with other Pueblos and with Navajos,—all are described. One learns how to do beadwork, and that silver-smithing did not reach this pueblo until the 20th century. We see drawings of wooden stirring sticks and oven paddles with which bread is removed from the domed ovens. We are intrigued with the story of Cochiti's first sale of their now famous drums: a man, needing money for some purchase at the time of a secret dance, took a small drum to the trading post where he received fifteen cents for it—plus the order for a hundred more. We move from stone objects and gourd rattles to community licenses and fees, wage earning within and outside the pueblo, and who went into the military services and what the results were in culture change.

The jump from consideration of these everyday items to description of the ceremonial organization is not as great as

one might guess, for religious organization and sanction forms the immediate and real background to all pueblo activities. Discussion of the calendar and ceremonial paraphernalia for the annual round of retreats and dances leads into the consideration of kinship grouping and cooperation within and between the larger social groups. An examination of the life cycle pictures the individual in his successive relationships to these various groups.

In considerable part, these are the subjects for any ethnography, although most Pueblo studies have given surprisingly little on material culture. But it is in Lange's copious detail that much value lies, and in the background material which he gathered from a varied collection of sources. After a thorough covering of historic references, the author gives a detailed picture of Spanish-Americans moving into the pueblo as early as 1880, lands being loaned to them (according to Pueblo concept) in exchange for aid in protection against Apaches and Navajos. The influences of these families and of later contacts with Anglo outsiders and the described programs and plans of the USIS have been major landmarks in Cochiti acculturation.

As background to present day reactions and customs, Lange used not only the generally known monographs such as those of Goldfrank and Father Dumarest but also the less known papers of Frederick Starr, Ruth Benedict, and E. S. Curtis, and unpublished notes of Boas and Elsie Clews Parsons, and the scattered 19th century descriptions from early observers: Bandelier, Bourke, the Eikemeyers, and Charles Lummis. The old photographs from several museum collections which were used to refresh the memory of informants provide the reader with visual reference to house layout and construction, the former "modernization" of the church with addition of a tall cupola which the wind buffeted until it cracked the adobe walls and had to be removed, and individuals formerly prominent in the tribe. Unpublished records dating back to 1870 in the files of the Franciscan Fathers at Peña Blanca provided good contrast to modern economic, edu-

cational, and health data recorded by the United Pueblos Agency.

One can summarize in saying that the book has much to recommend it. It is full. It is beautifully bound (it does not even look like a monograph!) And the book is readable, all 510 pages of the main part, after which anyone who still seeks data can prowl through another 108 pages of appendices covering clan, moiety, and marriage rosters, kinship terminology as compared over a 50 year period, births and deaths, and a short paper by Gertrude Kurath on Cochiti choreographies and songs, and another by J. R. Fox on Cochiti linguistics. There is—finally—a full reference bibliography and index.

Can one ask for more? Then peer under the back cover and find a pocket containing a map of the modern pueblo, complete even to "unoccupied houses with poor roofs," outside toilets, and water hydrants!

The University of New Mexico FLORENCE HAWLEY ELLIS

Formative Years in the Far West. By Gerald T. White. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1962. Pp. xv, 694. Bibliog., illust., index. $7.50.

This is a history of the earliest years of the petroleum industry in California. It is also a detailed and thorough history of how, why, and when Standard Oil entered the California and Far Western markets and developed its interests to the point where it became the largest single petroleum company in California. This is an account of how one company grew and expanded, and in part the history of the growth and development of the oil industry in the Far West.

What gives this study authority is the careful blend of detailed, and whenever possible thoroughly minute, investigation into motives, origins of policies, and the interplay of economic and personality pressures on policy formation. So detailed are the accounts of each move made by management and the situation presently affecting decision making that the

story moves all too frequently at a snail's pace. This insistence upon minute investigation results in monumental documentation of motives and proofs. If myths concerning rapacious and exploitive policies on the part of monopolistic management existed about Standard Oil in California, they have been thoroughly investigated and either dismissed or accounted for in relation to both the national and local development of the industry.

Mr. White accounts for the entrance of Standard into the Far West and California markets. Marketing know-how, aggressive and keen tactical maneuvering, and intelligent use of capital resources account for much of the early success. Standard's manipulation of railroad rates and its favored position in regard to these elements of cost is correctly placed in context and in relation to the local and national situation in regard to transportation costs and rebates. Standard made full use of its tactical position, experience, and drive to make a success of its venture in California and other market areas in the Pacific and Alaska.

Another point of interest for the student of management and anyone concerned with gaining a factual knowledge of how a big corporation utilizes its resources, is the detailed analysis of the cautious and conservative approach Standard had in acquiring production facilities and then entering the refining competition. Its use of predecessor companies, for example, Pacific Coast Oil, and its reliance upon Standard Oil Company (Iowa) illustrate its approach to expansion. This study also is interesting in the light it throws on the manner in which the executives in New York permitted their subordinates in San Francisco to guide and determine policy. Flexibility in decision making seems to have been the rule with the man on the spot making most of the vital decisions.

In the era of trust busting the California corporation played a comparatively minor role as far as a monopolistic enterprise is concerned. It was not a monopoly in California, although its size and efficiency in producing and marketing determined that it would be powerful in setting prices for its

products. Where the California corporation seems to have been outstanding is in its use of sales techniques, in excellent personnel relations with employees, and in meeting competition by producing better products. The efficient use of tankers and tank cars and pipe lines seems to have given it an advantage. Success in these activities seems to have been merited and accounts for preference for Standard products. Competition with other marketers and producers seems to be the key pattern for growth in an area where many oil companies after 1900 found that a growing population and industry and the motor cars were increasing demand for petroleum products.

As important as any chapters are those dealing with the relations of the Company and other producers with the federal government. The anti-trust cases are discussed as they throw light on California's situation and avoid retelling of the anti-trust movement. California Standard apparently achieved "Independence Through Antitrust." When the story of the development of production on government lands is told light is thrown on the dismal failure of the federal government to work out either a workable administrative arrangement or pass legislation dealing realistically with those who had drilled wells on its land. A contribution is made here to the analysis of management's difficulties in trying to operate oil wells and other facilities when neither Congress nor the administration will or can establish clear and workable guide lines. Mr. White shows from the company's point of view the difficulties of operating wells and equipment when profits and future production are left to the hazard of caprice of governmental decisions emanating from various bureaus and departments that are sometimes in conflict with each other. The discussion of Standard's problems in California in dealing with regulators and conservationists from 1910 to 1919 might stimulate a larger and more general study of the history of the oil industry's problems with government regulation and conservation policies and how management has reacted to them.

This is not a "popular" history in any sense of the word. It is hard reading; but it is rewarding reading. It is a careful documentation and explanation of how an industry and a company grew from precarious beginnings into large, sure, and profitable security. It ends with a change in management and the introduction of new scientific and economic factors that open another era in 1919. Obviously a second and companion volume is required to bring the history of Standard in California up-to-date. Mr. White is to be congratulated upon his great research and painstaking organization of material. His intelligent presentation of material and the scope of his project would seem to guarantee that the story of Standard and the industry in the Far West in relation to the Company will need no retelling.

Purdue University ROBERT B. ECKLES

A Campaign From Santa Fe to the Mississippi: Being a History of the Old Sibley Brigade. By Theo. Noel. Newly edited and with an introduction by Martin Hardwick Hall and Edwin Adams Davis. Houston: The Stagecoach Press, 1961. Pp. xxvii, 183. Maps, appendices. $7.50.

On "that cold, frosty morning" of November 7, 1861, Sibley's Texas Brigade, some 3,000 strong, marched out of San Antonio singing "The Texas Ranger" as the Confederate colors and a variety of regimental and company flags whipped about in the wind overhead. Their objective was a most incredible one: this motley crowd, some on horses and others on foot, armed with bowie knives, shotguns, and a few rusty rifles, planned to bring the far West into the Confederacy. They were all enthusiastic over the plan of operations; and their commander, sedate and bewhiskered Henry Hopkins Sibley, had even more optimistic dreams in envisioning a "Greater Confederacy" extending to the Pacific Ocean.

Noel, a member of the Fourth Texas Cavalry, tells the story of that "romantic gamble" in a spirited and knowledgeable style. And this is a credit to him, since he lacked an edu-

cation, having quit school at fourteen to help his brother run a newsstand in Seguin, Texas, and continuing to do so until he left to join the cavalry. His account, if at times grandiloquent and grossly biased, is nevertheless a charming one. The earlier pages are filled with anecdotes and ludicrous incidents. An example of the humor is the story about a company of Texans in dress review who failed to hear an order to "file left" and kept on marching until they had gone over a nearby hill and disappeared. Watching them pass out of sight, General Sibley grunted, "Gone to Hell."

After that, however, Noel can find little about the expedition that was humorous. He recounts the hardships that soon beset Sibley's ragged command—the bitter cold that plagued them in the Texas Big Bend country and on the New Mexico desert; the severe shortages of food and ammunition; the exhausting marches through moving clouds of sand and over a land devoid of roads or waterholes; and the diarrhea and fever that made many of the men collapse on the way, left there to be eaten by carnivorous animals or to freeze as the column pushed on toward Santa Fe. Noel describes in vivid and exaggerated detail their engagements with Federal forces at Valverde in February and at Glorieta Pass near Santa Fe in March. At this point, the Confederates, whose supplies were completely exhausted, began a slow, desperate retreat down the Rio Grande, reaching Texas in the late spring of 1862, their ranks thinned by some 1,700 casualties on the campaign.

The expedition failed for several reasons, and foremost among them was Sibley's glaring incompetence as a field commander. Pompous and pigheaded, with a weakness for the bottle, he often left command decisions to Colonel Tom Green of the Fifth Texas while he drank in his tent or toured the surrounding countryside in his carriage. Among other inexcusable things he did, he was not in the field when his troops met the enemy at Glorieta. Noel, however, refuses to criticize his commander. He calls Sibley an "able and skillful" briga-

dier and laments the "public clamor raised against him" when the Brigade returned to Texas.

Though Noel can find no wrong with his superiors, he is fairly accurate in narrating the New Mexico adventure and in following the Brigade's later activities, from the battle of Galveston on New Year's day, 1863, to a long tour of duty in the mosquito-infested bayous of southern Louisiana. There the outfit served under Richard Taylor in the Red River Campaign and after that saw limited action in Arkansas. Then, on orders from the Trans-Mississippi High Command, it set out for him. It is here that Noel's "short, imperfect and hurriedly composed history leaves the brigade *en route* for Texas."

The Stagecoach Press' edition of Noel's book, originally published in 1865, is handsome in design and in print. It has helpful editorial notes and an editor's introduction that outlines the brigade's activities and gives a concise and objective evaluation of the New Mexico expedition. Detailed appendices, including regimental officers, names and dates of engagements, and a list of killed and wounded, round out a valuable source work that is a must for Civil War collections.

Austin, Texas STEPHEN B. OATES

Exploring the Great Basin. By Gloria Griffen Cline. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1963. Pp. xviii, 216. Bibliog., illust., index. $4.95.

From the time of Christopher Columbus' voyages of discovery, European nations sought a water route that would provide direct passage across North America to the Orient. The Spanish searched in vain along the Pacific coast for the western outlet of a mythical Strait of Anían. The Hudson Bay Company trappers explored the river systems of the Greater Northwest looking for the Northwest Passage, and when the last major river system to be delineated, that of the Fraser River, provided no continuous water passage, they

virtually gave up the quest. A potent force behind the exploration of the Americans, Lewis and Clark, was the search for a continuous water route connecting the Missouri and Columbia River systems. By this time the myth was about destroyed but there remained one last hope that a water route might be found in the vast, uncharted area between California's Sierra Nevada and the Wasatch Mountains of central Utah. This land had been one of mystery and legend from the year 1776 when the Spanish Franciscan Garcés, and two friars, Domínguez and Escalante, penetrated the area, the former from California, and the latter from Santa Fe. Largely as a result of the supposition of map-makers recording Spanish exploits, a river known as the San Buenaventura was thought to flow westward from the Rockies through lakes and a break in the Sierra Nevada on into the Pacific Ocean.

As the British fur traders and mountain men came into the region from the Northwest, and the Americans from the Missouri drainage basin, they not only obtained furs but also gradually made known the geography of the area and in so doing destroyed all mystery and myth including the existence of the San Buenaventura River. It was John C. Frémont who, in 1844, settled the matter when he realized that this great interior basin had no outlet to the sea. This was perhaps his greatest contribution as a scientific explorer, but by no means the best known or most highly dramatized event in his life.

The author of this volume has traced the route of every Spanish, British, and American trader, adventurer, and explorer who traversed any portion of the Great Basin between 1776-1844, noted what they recorded about it, and summarized the impact of their activity upon cartography. She has assembled the well-known, but scattered information in monographic studies and with care and thoughtfulness integrated the evidence into a unified and logical chronicle. The specialist will find little in this volume to alter his existing knowledge or to re-evaluate its significance. The Spanish and American phases of the exploration are an oft-told story, but somewhat less has been known about the British. To maintain balance

in her account, the author has searched diligently in the archives of the Hudson's Bay Company and has made exceptionally good use of Peter Skene Ogden's Snake River Journal of 1828-1829, including the maps. The use of diaries, letters and reports has made the discussion of British activities the most significant contribution to scholarship in the volume.

Mrs. Cline's book suffers from structural difficulties primarily because of a dualism in which she first describes an exploration or journey and then recapitulates the events as recorded by cartographers. Although she is admittedly dealing with a highly complicated subject, she is not justified in such repetition as quoting exactly the same source materials at widely separated parts of the book, i.e., a five-line quotation from Frémont's *Journal,* p. 6 and p. 209, and a six-line statement from a Jedediah Smith letter published by Andrew Rolle, p. 156 and p. 196. The author occasionally makes assertion without documentation that would be helpful to many interested readers as, for example, the ways and means that George Vancouver's exploration made a forceful impression on both Alexander Mackenzie and Thomas Jefferson, p. 63. In the bibliography all sources that are not secondary works, including doctoral dissertations and governmental documents, are surprisingly lumped together under a heading, "Manuscripts."

In spite of all the objections a professional historian might raise concerning this book, the author has accomplished what she set out to do with such enthusiasm, to dramatically record the deeds of those who made known the geography of the Great Basin. Moreover, she has traced the movements of men in a more meaningful way by establishing their routes in relationship to present-day population centers. Students and readers of history, not often attracted by accounts of geographical exploration, will be captivated by this narrative.

University of California, Davis W. TURRENTINE JACKSON

Nevada's Turbulent Yesterday . . . A Study in Ghost Towns. By Don Ashbaugh. Los Angeles: Westernlore Press, 1963. Pp. 346. Illust., index. $7.50.

Don Ashbaugh dedicates this book to his wife, Alice. A footnote on the dedication page informs that Alice passed away one week after Don's burial.

The publishers of *Nevada's Turbulent Yesterday* merit commendation beyond the usual recognition that attaches to an attractively-produced item. In this instance there is more involved than just another commercial publication. Friendship and admiration for Don Ashbaugh are crafted into the book's manufacture. Were he here to see it, Don would be justly proud of his beautiful new book.

Much of the included material appeared as a weekly Sunday feature series in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal.* This series won many awards, the most outstanding being the 1959 Award of Merit by the American Association for State and Local History.

Nevada's Turbulent Yesterday at no time distresses its readers with a cumbersome sentence structure, styled in the laborious, academic pattern that has become almost a ritual among so many of our "learned" historical researchers. Here is a book that is equally as distinctive for its fascinating interest-appeal as it is distinguished for its demonstrated historical contribution. The basic values written into *Nevada's Turbulent Yesterday* are not restricted to the State of Nevada but are applicable to the entire Southwest, as well.

Don Ashbaugh gives definition to the scope of his coverage in his prefatory remarks:

> "This is a story about Nevada's Ghosts, tales of long-gone towns and the rugged individuals who built them. . . . Of men with hope in their eyes, who braved the unknown, laughed at hardships and death, lived and loved violently, drank prodigiously, and never gave up their serch for the beckoning bonanza at the rainbow's end. . . . Of women who followed them, fought with and for them, loved them and in a great many

cases buried them. It is a story of Nevada towns which boomed, bloomed and withered during the last 100 years."

Sixty or more historically-important ghost towns are brought to life in the narrative; innumerable tales are related about them and the people who lived in them. About all that is wanting in *Nevada's Turbulent Yesterday* is an adequate map system to assist the reader in visualizing the relative locations of the towns—past and present—that are identified in the text.

In reviewing a book on Nevada's early mining towns, one finds it difficult to escape comparison with Nell Murbarger's classic work—*Ghosts Of the Glory Trail* (1956). In many instances, Ashbaugh duplicates material appearing in this earlier book; in fact, he cites—and frequently quotes—passages from it. Happily, his type of writing, his avenues of approach, and his method of treatment are all essentially dissimilar to those of Miss Murbarger. One feels no urge to construct a preference for one book over the other. Happily, also, each book contains a wealth of informative material not included in the other. The reader need have no concern over the possibility of excessive duplication.

The Murbarger book reflects one significant advantage. While both writers must, of necessity, draw copiously from early newspaper and regional accounts, Nell Murbarger personally *visits* and *explores* the towns she describes. Her descriptions, as a result, are flavored with an intimacy that derives solely from personal knowledge and experience. She strengthens her references to printed records by on-the-scene interviews with old-timers—often with the original pioneers themselves—or their immediate descendants. Thus it may be said that, while Ashbaugh *informs* us of these historic areas, Nell Murbarger *takes* us there.

It would appear that the author is primarily concerned with the early history of a region, and is not particularly interested in its present-day status. The title of his book gives

advance indication of this. And because most—if not all—these ghosts of yesteryear found their origin linked inseparably to some gold discovery, the book becomes—in consequence—an engrossing history of Nevada's early mining activities.

Incidentally, the distinction that prevails in the subject matter of the Murbarger and Ashbaugh books asserts itself in the considerable number of photographs appearing in each (55 in the Murbarger; 67 in the Ashbaugh). Photographs in the former relate mainly to the present day; those in the latter (including pictures from the Nevada State Historical Society and the Las Vegas Review-Journal) are generally of an early vintage.

Nevada's Turbulent Yesterday represents something more than one man's articulate response to a cherished dream. It is the great, vibrant finale of a resourceful and dedicated life. Don literally *forced* that life to encompass completion of his self-imposed task.

> "Death closes all; but something ere the end,
> Some work of noble note, may yet be done."

Don Ashbaugh's book qualifies as a "work of noble note."

1045 W. Huntington Drive E. I. EDWARDS
Room 207—Southern California Business Service
Arcadia, California

The Kiowas. By Mildred P. Mayhall. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1962. Pp. xviii, 315, 14 plates, index. $5.95.

Dr. Mayhall has written a long and, unfortunately, rather dull and repetitious book about the history of one of the more interesting Plains Indian tribes.

Following a poetic evocation of the topography and climate of the Great Plains, she describes how the Kiowas together with their companion group, the Kiowa-Apache,

moved early in the eighteenth century from their homeland (probably in the Yellowstone region of the Rocky Mountains), taking up residence, making alliances, and adopting the horse-riding, buffalo-hunting, nomadic way of life characteristic of the Plains.

Over ninety pages are devoted to quotations from early "Descriptions of the Kiowas" and other Plains tribes. Several picturesque incidents are (uncritically) related, but most of the chapter focuses on various military expeditions into "Indian Country" and the ethnocentric judgments of their commanders on the behavior and character of the tribes contacted.

"The Evolution of a Civilization" is Dr. Mayhall's title for a chapter describing the nineteenth century material culture and social organization of the Kiowa and Kiowa-Apache. The description is sketchy and adds little to our understanding of this variant of the Plains culture pattern. It contains several inconsistencies. For instance, on p. 116 we are told that "The Kiowas had six subtribes or bands," and these are enumerated. But eight pages later we read that "there were ten to twenty bands." This chapter is filled with unfortunate phrases, e.g., "From then on, down to the present, the 'white man's road' was rocky and uphill" (p. 100). "There was no fixed rule of inheritance, but band names, shield, and tipi usually were patrilineal" (p. 123). "Undue giving was a prerogative of the powerful" (p. 144). Here and elsewhere, typographical errors are annoying in this otherwise beautifully printed book, e.g., "counterpoint" for counterpart (p. 137), and "discard" for disregard (p. 287).

The chapter on "The Kiowa Calendars" is little more than a summary of Mooney's classic work on the subject, while the two following chapters recapitulate all of this material (covering the years from 1832-92), adding details from a wide variety of sources on the treaties, raids, massacres, and epidemics which studded this period.

Two brief chapters describe the eventual settlement of the Kiowas on their present reservation and the social atti-

tudes and forces shaping their lives today. An appendix summarizes the archaeology of the Plains and current theories on the linguistic affinities of the Kiowa language. (The 1959 publications by W. R. Miller and by G. L. and E. C. Trager which support the linkage between Kiowa and Tanoan are absent from the bibliography.)

In sum, *The Kiowas* is not a book to recommend to either the casual reader or the specialist. Aside from the specific criticisms noted above, the major deficiency seems, to this reviewer, to lie in Dr. Mayhall's general point of view. The development of Plains culture, whatever it was, certainly was *not* the "Evolution of a Civilization," and the struggle between the aggressive, expanding Americans and the (less than 2,000) aggressive, defending Kiowas was *not* a "Contest of Civilizations," nor even of two cultures. The contest, once the Civil War had ended, was between the military representatives of a loose amalgamation of bands and tribes and the military force of a massive, relatively unified, national state with vast resources and manpower at its disposal.

The term "civilization" refers to a relatively rare and recent development in man's history. Applying this term loosely does no honor to the Kiowas and can lead to the kind of thinking in which Africans or Papuans are said to be "not ready for self-government" though they have been governing themselves—on a tribal level, to be sure—for centuries. That kind of thinking is akin to the view which characterizes as "undue giving" the ready generosity which made intratribal theft virtually unknown on the Plains. The narrowness of a view which insists that tribal peoples must adapt themselves to what we invidiously call the "modern world" when and where we decided they should leads easily to confusion of the *convenience* of an interest group (settlers, bankers, or bureaucrats) with historical *necessity*.

University of New Mexico PHILIP K. BOCK