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Book Reviews

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TARAHUMARA. WHERE NIGHT IS THE DAY OF THE MOON. By Bernard L. Fontana, with photographs by John P. Schaefer. Flagstaff: Northland Press, 1979. Pp. xiv, 167. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $20.00

RARÁMURI. A TARAHUMARA COLONIAL CHRONICLE 1607-1791. Thomas E. Sheridan and Thomas H. Naylor, editors. Foreword by Charles W. Polzer, S. J. Flagstaff: Northland Press, 1979. Pp. xii, 144. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $7.50

SPANISH JESUIT CHURCHES IN MEXICO'S TARAHUMARA. By Paul M. Roca. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1979. Pp. xxiv, 369. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $18.50

THROUGHOUT HISTORY THE TARAHUMARA INDIANS, who call themselves Rarámuri, have asked merely to remain obscure and untouched, to be left alone in the Sierra Madre of Mexico's Chihuahua. Recently, however, the spotlight seems to be falling upon them. Less than four years ago the Rio Grande Press reprinted the classic work of the 1930s, *The Tarahumara*, by Wendell Bennett and Robert Zingg. In 1979 three books appeared which, in various ways, have followed in these scholars' footsteps. Each one takes a totally different approach to the land of the Tarahumaras and its people.

Tarahumara. Where Night Is the Day of the Moon is the most spectacular. This is a beautiful, sensitively written book with text by Bernard Fontana, illustrated profusely with John Schaefer's outstanding photographs. It is, however, far more than merely an attractive "coffee-table" volume. It comes perhaps the closest to being a modern version of Bennett and Zingg, though the author's contact with the Tarahumaras was admittedly briefer than theirs. He has drawn judiciously on their information to supplement his experiences but still manages to make this a very personal book. Details are plentiful on the daily life and customs of the Tarahumaras, covering almost every phase of their activities. Also included are many charming anecdotes relating to the specific villages the author visited.

Fontana shows great sympathy and understanding for these Indians, who have retained the basics of their culture in spite of intrusions from the outside world,

intrusions which began on the day in 1607 when Jesuit Father Juan Fonte first entered their land. The author states that his omission of place names is an attempt to protect the privacy of this gentle but impressive people. His thought-provoking conclusion—that these Indians left him with the sense not of "Who are they?" but rather of "Who are we, who would try to change their lives?"—is worth consideration. Schaefer's photographs are strikingly beautiful, both black and white and color, and present an excellent image of these people as they go about the routine of their daily lives.

Rarámuri. A Tarahumara Colonial Chronicle approaches the Tarahumaras from a more scholarly standpoint. The book is a collection of Spanish documents translated into English by the staff of the Documentary Relations of the Southwest at the Arizona State Museum. It presents a number of unpublished missionary reports and several accounts from civil and military records. These documents give on-the-spot information concerning the life of the Indians during the 17th and 18th centuries, affording excellent insight into their relationship with priests and settlers, though naturally from the European point of view. The texts are connected by explanatory chapters recounting the historical background for the described events, pointing out quite often the Indians' side of the story.

The editors show great admiration for the Tarahumaras' desire to retain their culture. Emphasis is mainly on history and on the impact of the modern world on this remote people. Hope is expressed that they will continue to be able to control their "ethnic dignity" as in the past. This is a thoroughly informative and readable book about an unusual people from an unusual angle.

Spanish Jesuit Missions in Mexico's Tarahumara looks at the Tarahumara country through the Jesuit mission churches that once stood or still stand among its canyons. Roca traces the history of the Indians and their missions from the early 17th century. He devotes one section to an accurate contemporary description of the Indians and their present way of life, though his approach is less philosophical than that of the other two books. Locating the mission sites through 17th and 18th century documents, Roca traveled over the area's back roads and trails to pinpoint any remaining vestiges of the ancient churches, even giving information on how to reach each specific one. The book provides useful background material on the region, its people, and its Jesuit history, and is a serviceable guide for the would-be visitor.

Each of these volumes presents the Tarahumara Indians in a correctly sympathetic light. The attitudes toward their vulnerability to modern civilization vary however. Fontana actively wishes to protect them from too much visitation and acculturation. Sheridan and Naylor view with sympathetic historians' eyes the Indians' struggle against cultural change. Roca places greatest emphasis on the missions and does not hesitate to point the way for any traveler to reach the land of the Tarahumaras. But all have one thing in common, an obvious admiration for this enduring people, who well deserve any respect we can show them.

University of Arizona MADELEINE TURRELL RODACK

O. P. MCMAINS AND THE MAXWELL LAND GRANT CONFLICT. By Morris F. Taylor. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1979. Pp. xvi, 365. Append., bibliog., index. Cloth $16.50, paper $9.50.

NO BOOK better celebrates the late Morris Taylor's dedication to meticulous research than this one. He left few stones unturned in his quest for Oscar P. McMains's track through the Maxwell country. Given the mass of information here presented concerning a previously nebulous personality, one can only wonder at the number of side trails that must have turned up cold or as dead ends. Taylor's penchant for exactitude made him a mentor to the entire profession; all scholars lost him too soon.

Taylor successfully deals with the central question which troubles every biographically oriented writer—does the life of the person who occupies the limelight deserve such expansive treatment as a monograph provides? Is the life under study merely interesting, or does it provide insights into the times surrounding it? As the first chapter notes, Taylor started with a broader concept in mind, a look at the long controversy over the legality of the Maxwell grant, and was gradually drawn to a biography of McMains, so inseparable were the two topics. Certainly most of the opposition to the grant in court would have ceased after a few brief skirmishes were it not for the quixotic Methodist-preacher-turned-social-activist.

That last description of McMains brings this reviewer to one of the few quibbles with Taylor's treatment of his subject. It would have been useful to know McMains's feelings about his place in the broader organized church activity, the Social Gospel. Although the center of the movement was in the urban East, Westerners were not unaware of its existence or its call for involvement in secular society. Did McMains think of himself as marching within the ranks of the social gospellers? Certainly such a feeling would have contributed to his conviction that he still retained his clerical rights even though he had no parish after 1876. Equally of interest might have been a closer examination of the antiforeign implications of opposition toward the grant after the Dutch financiers entered the picture in the late 1870s. In short, some added dimensions might have been helpful.

Having praised Taylor's precision and emphasis on detail, I will now fault his editors for not restraining some tendency toward overzealousness along those same lines. The intrusion of text notes really detracts from readability, especially when note characters appear midsentence. The reader is drawn, Pavlov-like, to refer to the note, thus breaking the train of thought, or is forced to accumulate references for the end of a paragraph. Some of the material could have been included in the text, more omitted, and all note symbols saved for sentence ends.

The late Morris Taylor, besides being a first-rank student of history, was also a fine representative of the human race generally. Not just historians are made poorer by his absence. It is fitting that in this last published work before his death, Taylor rescued from obscurity another person of dedication to his chosen work.

Aerospace Medical Division, San Antonio JAMES T. STENSVAAG

KIVA, CROSS AND CROWN. By John L. Kessell. Washington, D.C.: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, 1979. Pp. 587. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $12.00

IF EARLIER HISTORY books had been written in this manner, we would have more students genuinely interested in history. The Pecos Indian people and the Pecos National Monument have long been a subject of curiosity, interest, and study by professional historians and archaeologists. Much has been written on the subject but never has the vague and unknown ever been presented in such a down-to-earth manner. Dr. John L. Kessell, formerly a historian for the National Park Service and an obviously meticulous and thorough researcher, has done an outstanding job in presenting a solid history of a great people in whose decisions and actions lay the beginning of an empire. These people held in their little-known hands the fate of simple friars, bold conquistadores, and self-serving colonial governors.

Ancient Spanish documents have been buried in the archives waiting for another outstanding Southwestern historian such as Bolton or Scholes to weave the threads of the elusive Pecos Pueblo. And as Kessell himself writes in his Preface, "there are scenes that would delight a script writer." His style of writing makes the reader feel like an actual participant in the human drama lived in the past.

As careful as a writer has to be, there are always some embarrassing errors. As a native son I must point out that on page 271 the hills to the west of San Ildefonso are not where the Black Mesa is located. The Black Mesa is north of San Ildefonso Pueblo; the error belongs to the Museum of New Mexico. As a direct descendant, I must point out on page 495 that Elsie C. Parsons was correct when she wrote that Juan Antonio Toya was a captive of the Comanches. (Toya is a Comanche word meaning "hill." The man was my maternal grandmother's grandfather.) On page 467 it is written that "Toya and ten others, three of them women, put their x's on paper." The truth is there were four women whose names were Simona Toribio, Maria Encarnación Armenta, Reyes Chama, and Juana Vigil.

Another error crops up in the caption for a painting by Richard H. Kern in 1849 (p. 422a). The Jemez governor of that year was Francisco Hos-styi (Lightning), not "Hos-ta." On the following page in the centerfold, the painting does not resemble a green corn dance, though it might be the artist's conception of one.

Overall the book is a tremendous asset to Southwestern history with excellent and readily available information on native population in different years at Pecos. The volume also contains a list of Franciscan friars, notable natives, and lists of *encomenderos* and *alcaldes mayores* in the appendix, which is followed by a wealth of footnote and bibliographical references.

Jemez Pueblo JOE S. SANDO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN AMERICAN INDIAN RESERVATIONS. Native American Studies, University of New Mexico. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1979. Pp. 157. Illus., notes. $8.95

THE NATIVE AMERICAN STUDIES program at the University of New Mexico has projected a publication series in three parts: History, Literature, and Development. This volume is the first in the Development series. We look forward with interest to future publications in this and the other two series and anticipate that the same high standards followed in this instance will be continued.

The federal government has not maintained high standards historically in connection with its trust responsibility for the orderly development of Indian resources. After the beginning of leasing in the latter part of the 19th century, it took something akin to self-determination on the part of the Osage agency to bring an end to the plundering and murder that had become typical of the management of income from oil leases on historic Osage lands.

In 1922 a so-called "Five-year industrial program," tried as an experiment on the Blackfeet Reservation, promised that Indians could be made "self-supporting citizens" through the development of plans to make more efficient use of reservation resources. The Depression and World War II years saw the development of Indian competence in the use of mechanized equipment that would increase their ability to utilize and manage reservation lands and resources. In the midst of the termination fiasco of the 1950s, Senate 802, "a bill to provide economic assistance to the American Indians," patterned after President Truman's Point IV program to give technical assistance to Indian reservations similar to that being provided for foreign developing nations, was introduced. This legislation, requested by Indians a decade or two before its time, was another preview of the self-determination philosophy.

These kinds of background ideas are dealt with by Simon J. Ortiz, poet and writer of Acoma Pueblo, in the narrative poem "The Land and the People are Speaking"; and by Vine Deloria, Jr. in a concise legal summary titled "Self-Determination and the Concept of Sovereignty," in Part I. Part II continues the "Historical Background for Underdevelopment" with Klara B. Kelley's "Federal Indian Land Policy and Economic Development in the United States"; Norris C. Hundley, Jr.'s "The Dark and Bloody Ground of Indian Water Rights"; and Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz's "Sources of Underdevelopment."

To give the reader examples of economic development or underdevelopment, Part III follows the theme "The Navajo Nation: A Case Study," and includes articles by Louise Lamphere, "Traditional Pastoral Economy"; by Lorraine Turner Ruffing, "Dependence and Underdevelopment"; Al Henderson's "Tribal Enterprises: Will They Survive?"; Gerald J. Boyle's "Tax Alternatives"; and Lynn A. Robbins's "Structural Changes in Navajo Government Related to Development."

Part IV treats "The Politics of Indian Underdevelopment and Development," and presents the following articles: "Strategy for Asserting Indian Control over

Mineral Development," by Lorraine Turner Ruffing; "Planning Indian Economic Development," by Phil Reno; and "Choices and Directions," by Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz.

As stated in the introduction: "most of the authors are scholars who are involved in various aspects of research and planning directly or indirectly for American Indian governments. The book is perceived as a means to make available information and theories on economic development which are difficult to acquire." At the close of the introductory statement the point is made that "perhaps the essays that comprise this book raise more questions than answers. A major point made throughout is that more questions should be asked, that American Indian people are right to be concerned and skeptical about 'economic development' as it is being presented to them through government and corporation programs."

This collection of research articles on the subject of Economic Development includes notes after the articles, and "Notes on the Contributors" at the end of the work. The publication is recommended for inclusion in the research collections of libraries, Ethnic Studies centers, government agencies, and individuals with interests in resource development, environmental protection, the American Indian, and the American West in general. The editors are to be complimented for this contribution in a field where additional research is needed.

University of Utah S. LYMAN TYLER

AMERICAN FORTS: ARCHITECTURAL FORM AND FUNCTION. By Willard B. Robinson. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1977, Pp. xiii, 229. Illus., maps, bibliog., index. $15.00

THIS ATTRACTIVE WORK by an architectural historian is one of the few serious books on fortification to be published in recent years. It includes a splendid collection of illustrations, more than a hundred in number, many never before in print. It also provides a comprehensive bibliography on fortification.

The book is at its best in the section on the forts of the frontier, those works—so associated still with our pioneer heritage—that arose as monuments to the westward expansion of the United States. With great expertise and sensitivity, the author has captured the innovative ingenuity evident in the construction of these defenses. Yet, this well-handled topic somehow clashes with one of the book's main themes, that indicated by its subtitle. For the lesson that emerges with regard to frontier forts is that such works—tangible proofs of the American knack for "making-do" with the materials and circumstances at hand—clearly reflected the adaptability of their builders but, at the same time, took their forms far less from their function than from a wide variety of other factors—topography, native vegetation and building materials, climate.

In dealing with the defense of the coasts, where most of this nation's permanent forts were constructed, the author treads less convincingly. Apparently from the fact that most of the eighteenth and nineteenth century texts on fortification (at

any rate, of the texts used in this country) were French, he seems to have embraced the fundamental theme that the French influence upon permanent American fortification was, in practice, correspondingly overwhelming. The influence of other nations—Spain and Great Britain being the most important—is all but ignored, as is (more unfortunately) the substantial body of contributions by a small group of American military engineers who gave as much to the theory, architecture, and technology of seacoast defense as any of their European contemporaries. The French influence was unquestionably significant, perhaps pre-eminent. Nevertheless, it was not so completely or exclusively dominant as contended in this work, where the French role is professed with a fervor that, on balance, merely impairs the book's over-all credibility.

Critical readers are likely, in retrospect, to raise serious questions over the book's title, suggesting as it does a comprehensiveness—both geographical and temporal—that never materializes. Of the American continent, only the portion within the present "contiguous" United States is, in fact, covered (which may, to a degree, excuse the neglect of Spanish influences on fortification in this hemisphere). Nor, for all practical purposes, does the book's coverage extend beyond the nineteenth century, i.e., beyond the era of the frontier forts. One might concede that the author has dealt adequately and fairly with what he regards as *American Forts*. However, his definition in that case unfortunately excludes the large majority of the permanent defensive structures built by this country, as well as most of the still-standing works adjoining major coastal cities, in the very areas once described by Walter Millis as veritable museums of this nation's military architecture.

In sum, somewhere between the book's title, its subtitle, and its actual contents, it somehow doesn't deliver. Though appearing to have sound substance—and likely therefore to be received by many as a definitive work—the book's real strength lies in its graphics. These, admittedly, are worth the price; for many, they will be enough.

U.S. House of Representatives Library EMANUEL RAYMOND LEWIS

CITIES OF THE AMERICAN WEST: A HISTORY OF FRONTIER URBAN PLANNING. By John W. Reps. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979. Pp. xii, 827. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $75.00

NEARLY TWENTY YEARS AGO Richard C. Wade sketched out the urban frontier thesis. In it, he argued that Frederick Jackson Turner's interpretation of the American frontier experience was seriously flawed by a lack of understanding of the evolution of cities. Now, after the passage of two decades and the appearance of several supporting monographs, the Wade Thesis has received what must be considered its ultimate vindication from the pen of John W. Reps. *Cities of the American West: A History of Frontier Urban Planning* is the latest addition to Reps's encyclopedic research on American urban planning practice, which by now has covered almost every nook and cranny of a vast field of endeavor. In the

process, the author carries the description and interpretation of the urban frontier into the trans-Mississippi West and solidly entrenches it there. Whereas Richard Wade centered his research on the city frontier of the Ohio and Upper Mississippi River valleys and merely suggested that his idea applied to the remainder of American frontier experience, Reps applies the argument to the West most comprehensively defined. As Wade before him, Reps found that towns formed "the spearheads of the frontier," that the frontier did not represent a line of advance across the country, and that urban frontiersmen largely reproduced rather than created the culture that they came to live in. This latter not only confirms the *Urban Frontier* but substantiates the notion that cities historically and contemporaneously create relatively uniform products.

For the area and time selected, the evidence presented by Reps is overwhelming, even mountainous. The author examines every period of Western urban planning, every Western geographic locale, and every kind of planning that occurred—Mormon, Spanish, Mexican, railroad, booster, miner and so forth. A wide variety of sources underlies the author's contention. The graphic dimension of this book is particularly impressive. The text is repeatedly punctuated with richly illustrated maps, lithographic views, sketches, and other fascinating visual evidence. Unfortunately, these are sometimes repetitious, especially the plat maps. The author deplores the omnipresent American square plat and then overwhelms his audience with an endless parade of plat maps marching across mountain, valley, hillside.

In many respects, the narrative suffers from the same flaw and from a lack of analytic comment as well. Rather than analyzing and generalizing about his topical selections, Reps is content to write a series of sequential biographies of the early foundation and planning of western towns. These are sometimes enriched by humor and useful comparative insights, but by and large the story is repetitious and lacking in both interpretation and synthesis. All of this has vastly increased both the length and cost of the book.

Still, the size and price of this valuable book do not detract from its persuasiveness or its impressiveness. It is a significant contribution to our understanding of the urbanization of America, and it ends on the right note—the prospects of United States city planning. Echoing Lord Bryce's criticisms of the speculative, frenzied, shabby, and thoughtless quality of urban growth in the West, Professor Reps argues that "somehow this must change" (p. 694). This is the perennial planners' plea and perhaps the central dilemma of that critical discipline. American cities *should* be better planned than they have been, but no one has yet advanced an overwhelmingly persuasive strategy for projecting the rationality and the public interest of city planning into the capitalistic and democratic context of city politics and public policy. Perhaps that is the task to which future planning histories should be addressed. Especially after this volume, it can be said with assurance that our planning tradition has been comprehensively sketched out, but we do not yet know what the past tells us about how to improve upon our performance.

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill ROGER W. LOTCHIN

THE SALOON ON THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINING FRONTIER. By Elliott West. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1979. Illus., notes, bibliog., index, append. Pp. x, 197. $14.50

HISTORIANS OF THE AMERICAN WEST have briefly mentioned the ever-present saloon in frontier communities, and the entertainment media has used the saloon as a setting for endless dramatic presentations, but no scholar has given serious consideration to the impact of these public drinking houses on the social structure and attitudes of mining towns. Elliott West has chosen the Rocky Mountain mining region including parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, and Idaho for his pioneering study. His focus is on the institutions that drew most of their income from the sale of liquor and excludes theaters, gambling establishments, and dance halls where alcohol was sold.

An initial chapter, "The Sacramental Glass of Whisky," examines the validity of the popular image of the saloon and its influence on society. The mining frontier was overwhelmed by competition and materialism. The young, male, heterogeneous population was exceptionally mobile, and the vast majority were frustrated by unfulfilled hopes and in need of companionship and association, prime factors in causing people everywhere to drink in excess. Moreover, liquor was easily transported to places difficult of access and was therefore abundant. Public drinking met genuine psychological needs but also led to public disorder, crime, and personal suffering by undermining health. Turning to the physical development of the saloon, the author suggests that there were three stages of transition from crude tents and shacks to more stable structures and finally to elegant establishments with billiard tables, dance floors, and private rooms for the town's elite. Profuse illustrations of each developmental stage augment the text.

A quantitative analysis of the information about saloonmen reveals that they were similar to the members of society that surrounded them—young, white, single, native-born, with a sprinkling of migrants from Germany and Ireland. Personally they were mobile, hard-working, highly visible, expansive, generous, friendly, and possessed a broad sense of humor. In the early days of the mining camp the saloon provided housing, served as a post office, and a meeting place for juries, politicians, prizefights, and dances, but the emphasis on camaraderie was never forgotten.

From the economic standpoint, the saloon was not the bonanza it was thought to be, according to West's investigation. The possession of initial capital and luck were the apparent keys to success. Obtaining a suitable location, the level of license fees and taxes, the necessity to extend credit, and growing competition were all factors that had to be dealt with. West analyzes the impact of these various factors in a case study of Leadville, Colorado, the wealthiest urban center in the Rocky Mountain region. In the maturing camp the establishment of schools, churches, and theaters minimized the diversity of services provided by the saloon. As a symbol of permissiveness and self-indulgence, it was the target for attack by reformers belonging to the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Young Men's Christian Association, the Independent Order of Good

Templars, and Murphy "blue ribbon" men. Ordinances were passed limiting the district within the towns where saloons could operate, taxes and license fees were increased, but the campaign to end Sunday drinking collapsed. The saloon survived as a place of diversion and a male sanctuary.

The interpretations and conclusions of West's study are not startling, but they are reliable. His book is exceptionally well-written, dramatic, and entertaining. Each chapter has a smashing introduction, is well-organized, provides adequate summaries and transitions to the subsequent discussions. A careful reader may find the repetition of ideas and slang terms distracting, but they can be justified on the grounds of emphasis. While dealing with a popular subject, the author has not neglected all the trappings of scholarship, including appendices of a census profile and a biographical profile of saloon owners. The bibliography and notes reveal that the author's research has been extensive and thorough. His book is a significant contribution to the business and social development of the nation.

University of California, Davis W. TURRENTINE JACKSON

THE OUTLAW TRAIL: A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME. By Robert Redford. New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1978. Pp. 223. Illus., index. $19.95.

IN OCTOBER OF 1975 movie actor Robert Redford and eight other people met in Wyoming to journey southward along what the more romantic have called "The Outlaw Trail." This supposedly started at the Canadian border, meandered to Miles City, Montana, moved down to the Hole-in-the-Wall in Wyoming, ran then to Browns Park in the Four Corners country, proceeded through the Navajo territory to St. Johns, Arizona, and continued to Silver City and Las Cruces, New Mexico, ending at El Paso and the Mexican border. This less-than-epic trek was financed by *National Geographic*, which already has published a portion of the work.

Redford's(?) prose is extremely readable as he chronicles the trip, describing terrain and recording conversations with interesting characters he met along the way, interspersed with biographies of outlaws and tidbits of popular history. Somehow he managed to meet almost all the Western stereotypes—the laconic cowboy capable of drinking everyone under the table, the old-timer full of yarns about the "good old days," the sweet, grandmotherly type who knew all the outlaws and can tell tales not in any book, even the modern big city boy who has returned to the wilderness to build his ecologically sound cabin with his own hands.

The tone of the book is set in the Foreword where Redford describes the region as "a lawless area where any man with a past or a price on his head was free to roam 'nameless,' provided he was good with a gun, fast on a horse, cleverer than the next man, could run as fast as he could cheat, trusted no one, had eyes in the back of his head and a fool's sense of adventure. No holds were barred on this trail and old age was a freak condition" (p. 12). The pictures, both historic and contemporary, are numerous, stunning, and colorful, but the book has no value

for serious scholars—and would have virtually no appeal to the popular audience if the author was anyone other than the Sundance Kid reincarnated.

Memphis State University Press ODIE B. FAULK

BACK IN THE SADDLE AGAIN. By Gene Autry with Mickey Herskowitz. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1978. Pp. 252. Illus., index, discography, filmography. $8.95.

I DON'T CLAIM to have seen all of the ninety-three Gene Autry movies, but I've surely seen enough of them. Through Autry's *Back in the Saddle Again*, I have relived a pleasant portion of my childhood—the Saturday afternoons at the Ritz and Plaza movie theaters. For seven cents, I saw—sometimes twice—three cartoons, a serial, and a B grade western movie. It was an especially good afternoon if the movie starred Gene Autry, one of my favorite cowboys. The only thing, though, that worried me was that Gene kept changing; some afternoons he was young and sang songs I had never heard before, and at other times, although he sang the latest westerns, he looked older.

Back in the Saddle Again presents a sketchy but interesting account of Gene Autry's public life. Born in Tioga, Texas, in 1907, Orvon Gene Autry later moved with his family to a farm in southern Oklahoma. As a young man he worked as a railroad telegraph operator and beginning in 1928 sang for KVOO in Tulsa as "Oklahoma's Yodeling Cowboy." Two years later he starred for Chicago's WLS National Barn Dance. By then Autry had released several records for the American Record Corporation label and within a short time was recording on the Sears label. In 1934 the now famous western singer sang in a Ken Maynard western, *In Old Santa Fe*. After appearing in two episodes of a Ken Maynard serial and making a serial of his own, *The Phantom Empire*, he starred in the first western planned around the central character's ability to sing. The success of *Tumbling Tumbleweed* not only made Gene Autry the "Original Singing Cowboy" and assured his future, but also created a new formula for western movies—good stories, music, action, comic relief, and just a little romance. The formula proved so successful that Autry's more and more demanding schedule included eight singing westerns a year.

Pat Buttram, the dependable sidekick in some of Autry's later films and a regular member on the radio show "Melody Ranch," has stated that Gene Autry "used to ride off into the sunset; now he owns it." Although Buttram's statement was meant as a pun, it does illustrate the fact that through his film career and afterwards, Gene Autry was a shrewd businessman. He was alive to opportunities and made the most of each. Today his empire consists of broadcasting stations, film production companies, real estate, and an American League baseball team, the California Angels.

Back in the Saddle Again will appeal to the many who enjoyed the B westerns and are nostalgic about a supposedly gentler era. From a specific point of view, it will also serve useful to those interested in the evolution of western music. As a

guide for future singing cowboys to become millionaires, it will not be useful. Even though devoting a couple of chapters to his post-music and film careers and partially describing his corporate empire, Autry admits that he has not analyzed his success; he just enjoys it. Anyway there is only one Gene Autry.

East Tennesse State University EMMETT M. ESSIN

SPANISH AND MEXICAN RECORDS OF THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST: A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GUIDE TO ARCHIVE AND MANUSCRIPT SOURCES. By Henry Putney Beers. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1979. Pp. xii, 493. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $8.96 paper, $18.50 cloth

THIS IS AN EXCEPTIONALLY valuable volume, long needed by scholars and students of the history of American Southwest, often tabbed the Spanish Borderlands. The author, archivist, historian, editor, brings impressive credentials to this task of complementing his similar and earlier regional survey of sources and materials on the French and British Old Northwest. He has been in this business for better than thirty years.

The present book notes and catalogues the Records of New Mexico, of Texas, of California, and Arizona for the Spanish and Mexican periods of their history. Each section is broken into such categories as Provincial Records, Legislative Records, Archival Reproductions, Documentary Publications, Manuscript Collections, Land Records, Records of Local Jurisdictions, and Ecclesiastical Records. There are several useful lists in the Appendices and a sizable bibliography. To assist the reader each area section is preceded by a well-drawn map, noting the principal colonial and territorial settlements.

Further, each section is prefaced with a mini-history of the area. This ingenious addition to a work of this sort, relatively unique in such works, helps to put the varied collections surveyed into the proper setting which brought them into being. This technique fuses a certain life into them. Other historical notes are scattered through the various categories listed. There are occasional minor inaccuracies in these bits of history, but this does not detract from the overall value of the book. There are ample footnotes in each instance to allow the reader to do a bit of personal research in the interest of rectificaion of slips.

Not only does the author supply the general historical background of the areas, he very often relates the story of how bodies of documents ended in their current repositories and who among later gatherers and copiers happened to be responsible. In the mini-histories of these repositories much information comes to light—as an example, one can cite the Bancroft Collection/Library of the University of California-Berkeley, or, again, the Huntington Library, or the Newberry Library. Such historical bits as these add to reader interest; this is not simply a dry, however useful, listing of source collections.

One stands, or more likely sits, aghast at the industry of the author in assembling the vast amount of information which has gone into this book. And even the most demanding of readers should indulge him oversights and omissions—the one who strives for absolute perfection will find ninety per cent, or better, of his task already done.

Borderlanders and American historians in general must be grateful to Henry Putney Beers.

Saint Louis University JOHN FRANCIS BANNON

TEXAS ANNEXATION AND THE MEXICAN WAR: A POLITICAL STUDY OF THE OLD NORTHWEST. By Norman E. Tutorow. Palo Alto, Ca.: Chadwick House, 1978. Pp. xv, 320. Illus., notes, append., bibliog., index. $12.95.

TEXAS ANNEXATION AND THE MEXICAN WAR focuses upon four states in the Old Northwest: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. The work analyses the affect of annexation and the war on politics and public opinion in those states. It also compares the response of the Old Northwest to these issues with the response of the nation at large.

Twelve chapters treat the Northwest's reaction to such sub-topics as the 1844 annexation treaty, the election of 1844, Texas statehood, the declaration of war, the Wilmot Proviso. With but one or two exceptions, each chapter provides an overview of the issue, a state-by-state analyses of the reaction therein, and a summary. There are six appendices. An extensive bibliography reveals that much research has been done among manuscripts, published papers, and newspapers, and that most of the appropriate secondary sources have been consulted.

The method of organization leads inevitably to a considerable degree of repetition. It is established early on that Illinois and Indiana, having a greater proportion of residents with Southern origins, were less restrained in their support of southwestern expansion than were Ohio and Michigan. This is in keeping with the work's chief assertion, that the Old Northwest represented "the nation in microcosm on almost every problem studied" (p. xiii). This leads to the conclusion that the Northwest's response to Texas annexation, the Mexican War, and the Wilmot Proviso were "the first direct antecedents of a sectional split that has generally been attributed to events of a decade later, or at the earliest, to the . . . Compromise of 1850. . ." (p. 212). More than thirty years ago Avery Craven wrote in *The Coming of the Civil War* of the sectional divisions during the Polk administration. And the "nation in microcosm" does not adequately convey the complexities of the United States during the 1840s.

If one is interested in the four states under discussion during the period covered, *Texas Annexation and the Mexican War* may be of some use, particularly the graphic information provided by the appendices.

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THE EAGLE AND THE SERPENT: THE SPANISH AND AMERICAN INVASIONS OF MEXICO, 1519 AND 1846. By John Selby. New York: Hippocrene Books, 1978. Pp. 163. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $12.95.

MILITARY HISTORY has usually been relegated to the backwaters of the historical profession. The underlying political and economic forces of warfare have consistently captured the attention of historians rather than the decisions and tactics of military operations. John Selby's book, *The Eagle and the Serpent*, will do little to improve the status of military history.

Selby's narrative concerns two critical events in Mexican history: the remarkable conquest of the Indians of central Mexico by a handful of Spaniards, and the successful attempt by the U.S. to acquire the northwestern territories of its southern neighbor. In both cases, Selby suggests in his introduction that the invasions proved to be a civilizing force among the conquered. Statements of a "white man's burden" have rarely appeared in recent years in such overt terms. Indeed, the British author, after a visit to a Mexican bordertown, claims "that it would have been better for everyone concerned if in the Mexican war, the United States had seized the whole country." The painfulness of such an assertion (if not its ridiculousness) is compounded by the author's treatment of the Spanish invasion.

Dozens of works in English, not to mention those in Spanish, have described the Spanish march into Mexico, the confrontation between Hernan Cortés and the Aztec chieftain, Moctezuma. Unfortunately, Selby's footnotes and bibliography reflect a serious lack of scholarship. Clearly, the defeat of the Aztecs depended to a large extent on the military stance adopted by the Aztecs and the crucial aid rendered by their Indian enemies to Cortés. In this respect, Selby apparently ignored, for example. R. C. Padden's engrossing, well-documented study of the conquest (*The Hummingbird and the Hawk*). The current re-publication of *Cortes and Montezuma*, by Maurice Collis, remains an imaginative, provocative reconstruction of the interplay between two distinctive civilizations as represented by Moctezuma and Cortés—an account written by an amateur historian that easily surpasses Selby's effort.

Selby's neglect of Mexican sources cripples his narrative of the U.S.-Mexican War of 1846-1848. As in his chronicle of the Spanish invasion, Selby focuses on the victors; the vanquished are briefly sketched in only to provide, it seems, North American military leaders with "real" adversaries. There is one exception, General Antonio López de Santa Anna. But Santa Anna was essentially symptomatic of his nation's political and economic weaknesses; weaknesses that contributed importantly to the inadequate military response by Mexico and its eventual defeat. This crucial point, however, is virtually unexplored by the author. Basic works (in English, Charles Cumberland's *Mexico*, Jan Bazant's *Concise History of Mexico*) convincingly demonstrate the significance of Mexico's fractured political economy to the U.S. victory.

In short, the ease of success by Spaniard and American remains obscure despite the richness of descriptive detail supplied by the author.

For the reader unfettered by questions of interpretation or evidence, *The Eagle and the Serpent* will provide moments of interest. The author's crisp narrative

flows well, contains appropriate anecdotes, and includes instances of excitement, even drama. Nevertheless, the thoughtful reader will leave Selby's book perhaps more puzzled than before about the dynamics and importance of the military victories of the Spanish and American invasions of Mexico.

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TEN NOTABLE WOMEN OF LATIN AMERICA. By James and Linda Henderson. Chicago: Nelson Hall, 1978. Pp. xxii, 257. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $7.95.

TEN NOTABLE WOMEN OF LATIN AMERICA is a collection of vignettes about such personalities as the Indian Malinche, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, the Brazilian Empress Leopoldina, Colombian revolutionary La Pola, Cuban Mariana Grajales, down to such contemporary figures as Eva Peron, Gabriela Mistral, and Tania, the Cuban guerilla who fought with Che Guevara in his ill-fated mission to Bolivia. Why these women are more notable than others such as Peruvian Aprista leader Magda Portal, or Cuban feminist, Vilima Espin, or Bolivian poetess Adela Zamudio is never explained, nor is any rationale offered for the selection of the ten women included in this work. The choices are disappointing if only because the women studied have long been the standard fare in survey history classes where some perfunctory allusion to the role of women necessarily evokes the likes of Sor Juana, the Malinche, or Eva Peron.

In the introductory essay the reader is told that two kinds of writings have dominated the study of women's history in this hemisphere: biographies and mass/class analyses. The Hendersons explain that their work culls the best of both styles. Unfortunately, the results do not demonstrate any new perspective on women in Latin America, and, in fact, their analyses reveal an insensitivity to the research of the past decade which emphasizes the importance of class as well as sex factors determining the rights and liberties women enjoyed in Hispanic society. Moreover, to choose the "exceptional woman" approach, which has come under fire in light of new research, adds little to our understanding of the complexities of feminine life in America. As scholar Charles Gibson has stated, to use this line of inquiry will only represent "exceptional minds responding in unusual ways to an environment in which all of them felt ill at ease."

The biographies are well-written, synthesizing many secondary Spanish sources to yield an almost baroque eye for detail and language. The prose, while pleasant enough reading, is subject to historical and literary hyperbole with a heavy dose of poetic license more suited for story-telling than historical narrative. For instance, in describing the escapades of the Nun Ensign, a female deviant of the early seventeenth century, the following passage is representative: "As Catalina became tangled in the sticky web of love, she slipped into indiscretions of a different sort."

To reduce feminine life in the Americas to stories of intrigue and glory does nothing to serve women's history. *Ten Notable Women of Latin America* is a work that does too little too late to make it useful in a university history course. Perhaps in a high school program such stories might whet the appetite of young

readers, who on their own, would seek more comprehensive anthologies, but the text does not include a bibliography for further reading suggestions save for the list of sources used to write each chapter.

Finally, one note about the illustrations. For each woman there appears a portrait which bears little resemblance to extant portraits and photographs. In view of the rich iconographic sources on women, and especially of the more notable ones, it is a pity to introduce new readers to women's history with such unimaginative art. This is a small point but one which deserves attention in a social history cum biographical approach.

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