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Book Reviews

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Book Reviews

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WATER AND THE WEST: THE COLORADO RIVER COMPACT AND THE POLITICS OF WATER IN THE AMERICAN WEST. By Norris Hundley, Jr. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1975. Pp. xxi, 395. Illus., maps, tables, app., bibliog., index. \$20.00.

THE COLORADO RIVER COMPACT of 1922 is not likely to be a matter of great concern even among historians of the American West. Norris Hundley's splendid book explains why it should be. The compact, he points out, is one of the keys to understanding the last half century in the 244,000 square mile basin of the Colorado River including, of course, part of New Mexico. The reason for its importance is easily understood: in an arid region control of water means control of destiny. The compact, moreover, is an internationally noted landmark in the history of environmental planning. It marked the first time in American history that a group of states divided the water of an interstate river for consumption. It paved the way for the Boulder Canyon Project and Hoover Dam. It contributed hugely to the growth of southern California and central Arizona. And the background and aftermath of the compact provides one of the best instances political scientists can find of the workings of the American federal system.

This book unquestionably provides more than all but the most avid students of the subject will want to know about the 1922 agreement. But if the story is to be told at all, why not tell it fully? Professor Hundley's research for the volume is monumental. His footnotes and bibliography are models of excellence in the historian's craft. And the author has made what could be tedious material as fascinating as possible.

The first seven chapters of *Water and the West* treat the long background of the compact and the details of its construction under the skillful guidance of Delph Carpenter of Colorado and a man named Herbert Hoover. The convoluted ratification process and the chronic dissatisfaction

of Arizona with the 1922 decision occupy the remainder of the volume. But Hundley casts his net wide to discuss, for example, the implications of the compact for the potential development of oil shale resources of the Upper Colorado basin. He also is aware that in drawing the compact Americans dealt for almost the first time in their history with the inevitable question of a finite environment.

University of California, Santa Bárbara

RODERICK NASH

HISTORY OF THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA, AND SANTA FE RAILWAY. By Keith L. Bryant, Jr. New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., 1974. Pp. xviii, 398. Illus., maps, notes, bibliog., index. \$12.95.

THE NATION'S RAILROADS hold a special place in American life and in the hearts of many historians. On the one hand, there is a fascination with the equipment and its operation; on the other hand, railroad history offers opportunities to compare business strategies and policies in changing environments over significant time spans. Even for those who have no interest in the technical aspects, the role of railroads in the development of the American West has obvious importance. Professor Bryant is well aware of the wide range of interest in railroads, and he writes for them all while chronicling the development of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe down to the recent past. In the process he covers the battles of railroad moguls, the tragedies and triumphs of building, operating, and managing a complex railroad system.

The account is basically chronological, interspersed with chapters devoted to topics as varied as locomotives and Fred Harvey's restaurants. The ATSF's course of development was defined sequentially by the activities of promoters, strategists, financiers, and finally professional managers. Accordingly, the author emphasizes the role that people—and more particularly the ATSF's chief executives—played in shaping the system.

The original charter was obtained in 1859 by Cyrus K. Holliday, a Free Soiler and founder of Topeka, Kansas, who visualized the road as extending both west and south from the territory. Four years later the road received a conditional three million acre land grant from Congress, but it was not until 1872 that the tracks reached the Colorado border, insuring the grant. Since the ATSF crossed many of the cattle trails further south than its competitors, much of its early business derived from this fact. Bat Masterson and other famous western figures were on the road's payroll at one time or another, and their persuasive powers were needed as tracks were pushed into such wide-open, hell-raising cattle towns as Dodge City.

In the early 1870s implementation of Holliday's vision brought the Atchison into conflict with the Denver & Río Grande for control of strategic Colorado mountain passes. Under William B. Strong, victory was won at Ratón Pass, the best gateway to New Mexico, but he failed to gain control of Royal Gorge to the northwest. As a result, the ATSF route to California was destined to be through New Mexico rather than via Salt Lake City. Strong became president of the company in 1881 and guided the rapid development of the system, which reached the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Coast before he was forced into retirement in 1889.

Strong's expansion program ran the company's debt increasingly higher, and its Boston backers and investment bankers forced the 1889 change of management. However, the situation continued to worsen under Strong's successors, complicated by charges of mismanagement and mounting losses on acquired roads. The ATSF Railroad was finally forced into receivership and emerged in 1895 as the ATSF Railway. For the next twenty-two years under President E. P. Ripley, the system, purged of its early excesses, prospered. Ripley and his successors emphasized speed and quality of service. By 1911 the Los Angeles-Chicago run, for example, could be made regularly in a little over sixty hours.

In terms of the various stages of development through which it passed, the ATSF was not atypical of other railroad systems that survived into this century. The degree of its success in meeting new conditions and the predominantly "developmental" philosophy of its management and principal owners, however, was less typical. As other forms of transportation began to make inroads on its business, the ATSF acquired motor carriers and for a brief time even operated an airline. In the twentieth century the ATSF became a major carrier of the resources of the area it served, as well as the owner-developer of some of them, notably oil, forest products, real estate, and uranium. The diversification program that accompanied the decline of passenger traffic and mounting competition culminated in the organization of Santa Fe Industries in 1968 to consolidate these holdings.

Professor Bryant has done a commendable job in presenting the complex story of a significant business enterprise. While catering to the interests of the railroad "buff," this book also has much to say about the development of the West, the impact of technology on railroading, and managerial response to a changing business and political environment over an extended period of time. The text is elaborately illustrated, adding a visual dimension to the story of the equipment, strategies, and personnel of the system. Overall, this history of the ATSF should prove useful to both scholars and laymen interested in railroads and the American West.

University of Maine at Orono

ARTHUR M. JOHNSON

ADVENTURES IN THE APACHE COUNTRY: A TOUR THROUGH ARIZONA AND SONORA, 1864. By J. Ross Browne. Edited with an introduction by Donald M. Powell. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1974. Pp. xvi, 297. Illus., apps., index. Cloth \$9.50, paper \$4.25.

"WHY DIDN'T I think of that?" is, in historical writing, a more genuine compliment than the proverbial imitation. J. Ross Browne's travelogue has been around for over a century, but it has never been subjected to the critical historical annotation which it has badly needed since its first appearance in 1864. Donald Powell, longtime reference librarian and historical researcher at the University of Arizona has finally done what some historian should have long ago—except that none of us ever thought about it long enough to suit action to concept. The result is a historical treasure, one of the best looking books produced by the University of Arizona press—an inexpensive edition of a reading delight.

Browne was a prolific author of travel books and foreign correspondence who also occasionally acted as agent or inspector for federal offices, notably the Treasury Department. In December 1863 he accepted the invitation of Charles D. Poston, superintendent of Indian affairs for the newly created Territory of Arizona, to accompany Poston's small party of territorial officials from Camp Drum to Tucson and Prescott. Although the tour would be hazardous and uncomfortable, it was not much more than Browne had endured in Zanzibar or Syria. And the rewards might be lucrative.

Arizona in 1864 was virtually unknown to the world at large. Indeed, to judge by contemporary published accounts, it was a fabled land of silver mines and exotic savages—an arid remnant of the Aztec Empire. If Browne could capture its essence in print and pictures (for he was an accomplished sketchbook artist), the publication might earn a respectable royalty. The mining angle was on what Poston dwelled. He apparently told Browne that advertisement of the new territory's gold fields and dormant silver mines would enrich the publicist shrewd enough to take options on the most promising mines. In a moment, Brown literally dropped all pending business in San Francisco, packed "a few coarse shirts, a box of pencils and paints, a meerscham and a plug of tobacco," and with Poston boarded the steamer *Senator* bound for San Pedro.

Alas for Browne the enterprise went neither according to plan nor promise. The deserts and incredibly primitive conditions of southwestern Arizona were more formidable than anything Browne had seen. Travel was dangerous and exasperatingly slow. In September at Mission San Xavier he was informed of sickness at home and viewing the 250 miles of howling wilderness that still lay before them, Browne elected to return to California

without visiting the seat of government at Prescott or the scenes of recent gold discoveries. That he was able to sell his meager reportage to *Harper's* in the form of six handsomely illustrated articles is a tribute to both Browne's writing craft and artistic talent.

Some critics judge the series, originally published under this book's subtitle, to be Browne's best literary effort. It has been reprinted at least three times before the present edition, and the wood-engraved illustrations copied innumerable times. Undoubtedly, Powell's version is the most useful. As supplied by the University of Arizona Press, the book is a photo-facsimile, slightly reduced, of the 1869 edition minus the section on Washoe, Nevada. The ample margins are used for Powell's extensive sidenotes. The casual reader might wish for larger type; but the overall product, including an excellent introduction and index, is first rate.

Donald Powell's notes are a model of conciseness, clarity, and bibliographic accuracy. This nit-picking reviewer could find very few with which to quibble, the most serious being Powell's total neglect of the late Benjamin Sacks' work and a note on page 150 where "Grant Oury" is identified as William Sanders Oury. Browne obviously meant the brother Granville. But these are cautions for the specialist and affect the book's high quality not at all.

Northern Arizona University

ANDREW WALLACE

LA REUNION: A PERSONAL CHRONICLE OF THE MUNICIPAL CONSOLIDATION OF LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO. By Lynn I. Perrigo. Peralta, New Mexico: The Yguado Press, 1975. Pp. xii, 73. Illus., map, notes, app., index. \$3.35.

FOR MANY YEARS two communities existed side by side at Las Vegas, New Mexico. On one side of the Gallinas River was West Las Vegas, a village dating from 1835 with a population predominantly of Spanish origin. With the coming of the Santa Fe railroad in 1879 a new community largely Anglo in composition developed on the other side of the river that eventually became known as East Las Vegas.

Over the years the communities remained separated by "cultural differences, economic rivalry, municipal organization, and school administration, although they cooperated well in times of emergencies, as in the fighting of fires." Through the years, sporadic efforts at political unification were unsuccessful. During the 1960s, however, a stronger movement for unification developed. Although it faced many legal and cultural obstacles, the effort gained momentum until a special election in 1968 resulted in approval from the voters of both communities to consolidate the two governments.

From 1968 to 1970 much additional work was required to complete the actual unification. Despite the obstacles, this goal was achieved.

Dr. Lynn I. Perrigo came to Las Vegas in 1947 as an instructor of history at New Mexico Highlands University. As a historian he was very much interested in the consolidation of the two communities. He served as advisor to the unification commission from 1967 to 1970.

This book is Dr. Perrigo's personal account of the consolidation. It is a very detailed and thorough discussion despite its short length. In some ways, it is too detailed for readers not intimately knowledgeable about Las Vegas history. However, it is an excellent example of how communities find it difficult to cooperate even when the results will be beneficial to both sides.

For the student of New Mexico history and the student of city government and administration, this study should be quite enlightening.

Eastern New Mexico University

DONALD W. WHISENHUNT

MEXICAN AMERICANS. By Ellwyn R. Stoddard. New York: Random House, 1973. Pp. xvii, 269. Notes, tables, bibliog., index. \$3.95.

STODDARD'S WORK is another social scientific observation which tends to be geared for the Anglo reader who wishes to become informed of the total social, historical, educational, economic, and political experience of the Mexican-American. The primary purpose of the book, however, is to "give the most accurate picture possible of the heterogeneity of the Mexican American social structure."

This small monograph is generally readable, however, and presents familiar information on issues and events which reflect the history of the Mexican-American. The author's study, the fifth volume of the Random House "Ethnic Groups in Comparative Perspective" series, acknowledges the cultural pluralism which frequently characterizes the experience of the Mexican and the Mexican-American.

The organization of the research is topical, with chapters focusing mainly on sociological accounts of the Mexican-American's social history, social organizations, cultural conflicts, educational development, religious viewpoints, and cycles of poverty. The author introduces each chapter's content, and presents a brief and general historical background of the subject and its relation to present situations of the Mexican-American.

Each chapter covers topics which partially reflect major themes of Mexican-American history. Each chapter also contains the author's own personal viewpoints of the topic which frequently become too dramatic; they

reek of self-pronounced judgments and solutions in solving those problems which the Mexican-American simply cannot solve. For example, on the subject of ethnic identity, he states: "To rid himself of his inferior status, a Mexican American must either reject his ethnic ancestry or reject the dominant society—repudiate its right to determine his identity . . . A Mexican American who identifies with his ethnic group loses the social and economic rewards reserved for 'Anglo-type' individuals."

Stoddard provides a small bibliography within his monograph. Here one sees the number of American, Mexican, and Mexican-American social scientists, anthropologists, and historians who have turned their attention to the issues of the Mexican-American. The bibliography consists largely of secondary sources which indicate research done between the years 1926 and 1972.

Stoddard's work can be useful for students taking college level sociology courses aimed at ethnic studies content and discussion.

Arizona State University

CHRISTINE N. MARÍN

ALTON HUTSON: REMINISCENCES OF A SOUTH PLAINS YOUTH. By William Curry Holden. San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 1975. Pp. xii, 152. Illus., index. \$12.00.

NOT MANY TEXANS ever heard of Alton Hutson, for he did not distinguish himself in politics. Nor was he outstandingly successful in economic endeavors. Yet the Trinity University Press has published his memoirs because he witnessed and recorded events on the High Plains frontier of Texas. Born on December 26, 1903, he first lived in a dugout on the Spur Ranch. During his youth he rode and hunted with Comanche boys in and around Lubbock. While going to public school, he participated in the activities of the area—cotton and wheat farming, cattle wrangling, and buffalo hunting. In 1924 he went briefly to the University of Texas before attending the opening session of Texas Tech the following year.

Hutson has therefore testified, with the help of Professor William Curry Holden of Texas Tech, to this passing frontier era. In such reminiscences he has discussed a wide variety of topics, at times lamenting that "the last half of my life has not been as exciting, nor as eventful, as the first half." As a youth he obviously enjoyed the carefree times on the High Plains, learning the ways of the Comanches and experiencing the conditions of an unrestricted society. With obvious fondness, for instance, he has recalled a lifestyle which has been lost in urban life—the old-fashioned safeguards against the control of fires, hog killing and the local butcher shops, the one-

room schoolhouse, the formative years of Texas Tech, and the rustic social life of Lubbock such as the local movie house, the circus, car racing, bootlegging, and prostitution.

This memoir is thus of local rather than of widespread interest. For those of the Lubbock and High Plains area, the material will be interesting and entertaining. For Great Plains historians, Hutson has provided further information for comparative frontier studies. And for those who enjoy reading about "the good old days," this loosely organized, informally written work will be pleasurable.

Texas Christian University

BEN PROCTER

AN ARMY WIFE ON THE FRONTIER: THE MEMOIRS OF ALICE BLACKWOOD BALDWIN, 1867-1877. Ed. by Robert C. and Eleanor R. Carriker. Salt Lake City: University of Utah Library, 1975. Pp. viii, 118. Illus., map, index. \$8.00.

ABOUT THE TIME of the First World War, Alice Blackwood Baldwin wrote an account of her life as an army wife on the western frontier. Once tentatively entitled "Tales of the Old Army by an Old Army Girl," it was published in 1929 as a section of *Memoirs of the Late Frank D. Baldwin, Major General, U.S.A.* In addition to her published reminiscences, there is also a large volume of Alice's correspondence (over three hundred letters)—preserved along with Frank Baldwin's diaries, letters, and other writings—in the Henry E. Huntington Library.

Alice Baldwin's memoirs focus primarily on the period 1867-69 when Frank Baldwin was stationed at Fort Harker, Kansas, and Fort Wingate, New Mexico. The years between 1869 and 1876 when Alice was often separated from her husband are, in the editors' words, "curiously omitted" from the memoirs. From the account given in the introduction, however, this seems to have been a critical period in Alice's life. The editors surmise that "it is possible Alice did not wish to reenact with pen and memory the depression she suffered in that period," or perhaps "Alice had a remarkably positive attitude in later years and wished to emphasize to others only the humorous or little-known events of her experiences." Nonetheless, since the years 1869-76 represent a major portion of the total time period covered in these reminiscences (1867-77), one is forced to ask why the decision was made to reprint only the published account, given the presence of her unpublished correspondence in the Huntington. Several letters from Alice to Frank dating from 1869 to 1876 are quoted or cited in the introduction, and the passages from them are revealing and interesting—in many ways

more informative than the reminiscences written many years later. Indeed, Alice cautioned her husband in 1874 to burn her letters after he had read them "because I have written in most every one something I wouldn't want any one else to see." (Fortunately, Frank did not comply.) Thus it would seem that a more significant contribution could have been made by editing some of this correspondence also and including it in a new edition of the memoirs.

Published by the Tanner Trust Fund of the University of Utah Library, the volume is handsomely designed and printed, and the editors have done a good job with the annotations. (On page 60, however, they state that the Baca home in Trinidad in which the Baldwins' daughter was born in 1867 is that now being restored by the State Historical Society of Colorado. This house, however, was constructed by John Hough in 1869, who sold it to Don Felipe Baca in 1870.) Illustrations are included, although some, such as the view of Fort Harker on page 30, are reduced to such a degree that men and horses are almost invisible. *An Army Wife on the Frontier* is a readable and interesting book, but there would still seem to be room for further work with Frank and Alice Baldwin's papers in the Huntington by those concerned with the military on the western frontier.

State Historical Society of Colorado

MAXINE BENSON

THE MISSION IN THE VALLEY: A DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF SAN FERNANDO, REY DE ESPAÑA. Comp. and ed. by Francis J. Weber. Los Angeles: Archdiocese of Los Angeles, 1975. Pp. ix, 136. \$8.00.

THIS BOOK consists of a collection of fifty-five brief readings on various aspects of the history of Mission San Fernando, founded in 1797 by Fermín Francisco de Lasuén, the second Father President of the California missions. The selections extend in length from a paragraph or so to three or more pages. Twenty-one of them are excerpts from formerly published articles, essays, or books written by the author himself. Twenty-three are taken from primary sources, mostly from travel accounts, memoirs, reports, or the like. Nine are from items published in local newspapers in Los Angeles—the *Times*, the *Examiner*, or *The Tidings*, the official organ of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Linked together, these vignettes tell much of the story of the mission from its establishment to the present, featuring the early agricultural progress of the padres and Indians, the ravages of secularization and decline, the various efforts at restoration in the days of Charles F. Lummis, Father Charles Burns, and Dr. Mark Harrington, the removal of the archdiocesan

minor seminary to a site near the mission in 1954, and the reconstruction of the mission after the earthquake of 1971.

The dominant note of this collection of readings is local color. Descriptions of the irrigation system, olive culture, and the mission buildings; the accounts of the discovery of gold, the hanging of the Indian criminal Juan Antonio, and the rumors of buried treasure; appeals for reconstruction and the ultimate achievement of this worthy objective—all will prove attractive to the history fan. The book is intended for the general reader with an interest in California's romantic past rather than for the scholar in search of significant documentation, the solution of historical problems, or a new interpretation of mission history.

The Graduate Theological Union

FRANCIS F. GUEST, O.F.M.

INDIANS AND BUREAUCRATS: ADMINISTERING THE RESERVATION POLICY DURING THE CIVIL WAR. By Edmund Jefferson Danziger, Jr. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1974. Pp. xiv, 240. Maps, bibliog., index. \$8.50.

In *Indians and Bureaucrats* Danziger has provided an administrative history of Indian affairs during the five war years, directed toward a "broad analysis of the problems faced by the Indian Office field officials" and arguing for "the significance of Indian Office bureaucrats on the frontier." For the Indians, he concludes, "the office alone stood between them and utter degradation and annihilation." The book is cast in two parts; the first deals with the problem of subduing still-autonomous Indians and confining them to reservations; the second analyzes the problems of administering the reservations themselves. In both sections there are important points of information and interpretation. The treatment of John Evans's career in Colorado clearly indicates the disastrous consequences of an administrative structure which required the same man to be both chief white political official—territorial governor—and chief protector of the Indians—Indian superintendent. The author also precisely portrays the inherent difficulties in the overlapping but contradictory duties of the military and civilian agencies. Particularly good are the sections discussing the mechanisms of agency corruption, the impact of the Civil War itself on the Oklahoma reservation peoples, and the problems of dealing with rustlers, miners, and other white trespassers on reservations.

Nonetheless, there are aspects to this study which call its entire significance and usefulness as a book into serious question. In the eight years since the work was originally written, scholars have come to realize that

even the administrative aspects of Indian affairs must be viewed in terms of the cultural reality of the Indians and of the degree of divergence between that reality and the perceptions of the administrators. No longer can Danziger take note of "tribal ethnologies . . . only when they bear directly on the affairs of Indian agents." To do so is to perpetuate the narrow vision of the men he studies and leads him to see Indians through their eyes as "treacherous Apache," "warlike Utes," or "destitute Diggers." Nor is it any longer acceptable for the author to note glibly the Indian's desperate need "to quench his burning thirst" with alcohol, or to reduce the complex culture of the Cheyenne to such a nineteenth-century view as that "the Cheyenne brave . . . possessed of a fighting spirit," centered his life around his "sure-footed Indian pony" and "the excitement and glory of the chase" through "giant herds of shaggy buffalo"—while his "deerskin-clad squaw" had sole responsibility for the welfare of the home and children. Such an administration-centered, anticultural frame of reference finally leads Danziger to conclude that the removal of the Santee Sioux from Minnesota was no "Trail of Tears" and that the whites in charge "did a respectable job" because even though twenty-four Indians died in less than a month, "on such a long journey under crowded conditions this must be expected."

Furthermore, those examples and events to which the author directs the majority of his attention have by now already been fully treated in a number of easily accessible, even popular, other works. Danziger's interpretations of bureaucratic administration are insightful and penetrating in many respects, but do not require the support of lengthy recapitulations of the background to Sand Creek, the aftermath of the Santee Rebellion, or the failure of the Navajo's relocation at Fort Sumner. His argument would be more effectively advanced in two or three analytic journal articles.

Yale University

P. RICHARD METCALF