

# New Mexico Historical Review

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Volume 47 | Number 4

Article 6

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10-1-1972

## Book Reviews

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### Recommended Citation

. "Book Reviews." *New Mexico Historical Review* 47, 4 (2021). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol47/iss4/6>

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# Book Reviews

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MY GIRLHOOD AMONG OUTLAWS. By Lily Klasner, edited by Eve Ball. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1972. Pp. vii, 336. Illus., index. Cloth, \$7.50. Paper, \$4.95.

THIS BOOK is a very interesting one. The saga of the manuscript is also very interesting. According to Eve Ball, author of *In the Days of Victorio* and *Ma'am Jones of the Pecos*, Mrs. Klasner (1862-1946) planned to write her autobiography and began collecting at an early age letters, documents, and newspaper clippings related to her life and times. She collaborated with her close friend, Sally Chisum Roberts, niece of John S. Chisum, in regard to shared pioneer experiences. Maurice Garland Fulton, author of *History of the Lincoln County Wars*, contracted with Mrs. Klasner to organize and improve the manuscript, which he did. For reasons never published he withdrew from the project. She, however, continued to work on what she hoped would be a book. After Mrs. Klasner's death on May 31, 1946, the manuscript lay unnoticed for years in an old trunk in an abandoned adobe house where it was found by her niece, Mrs. Ola Casey Jones. This was considered a literary event in the area and at the urging of Maurice Fulton, Mrs. Ball undertook to edit the manuscript.

Lillian Klasner, the third child of Robert A. and Ellen E. Casey, was born near Fort Mason in Mason County, Texas, in 1862. When she was five years old the family moved to Rio Hondo in New Mexico, where Robert Casey established two homes, operated a grist mill, ran a store, and owned hundreds of range cattle. Mrs. Casey, eventually the mother of five children, met every frontier demand with resourcefulness, courage, and bravery. Lily Casey was also able to meet with courage and endurance Indian raids, epidemics, and, at the age of thirteen, the murder of her father by the outlaw William Wilson. She says in regard to this tragedy: "Edmund Welch brought the dreadful news that Father had been shot that afternoon in Lincoln. Young as we were we had heard of killings so frequently that we were able to take them as everyday events, but this time it was our own dear father who was the victim."

Ash Upson, romantic newspaperman of the Old West, is realistically and intimately presented as "Uncle Ash" who played such a major part "in my young life as my first and most stimulating school teacher." Robert Casey had hired Upson in 1872 to clerk in his store, and to teach in what was commonly called the Casey School, an end room in one of the buildings on the Casey ranch.

The author was too young at the time of the Lincoln County War to give a firsthand account of it, but many details were given to her by friends identified with it. The most important source material she presents is in the letters of Abneth McCabe, who had worked for John Chisum and also for her father. The letters were written to her when she was in Menard, Texas, for a term of school. She had met Billy the Kid when she was a little girl. Other outlaws whom she knew were Jesse Evans, Charlie Bowdre, Tom O'Folliard, Billy Morton, and Dick Brewer. She knew Bob Olinger, one of Billy the Kid's guards during his imprisonment who was killed by Billy the Kid. She bitterly resented "the unfair picture of Olinger as presented by Walter Noble Burns in his *Saga of Billy the Kid*." She states: "In the face of the misrepresentation, I feel that the time has come to break a silence that I have kept for fifty years, and try to set a friend in a true light." Mrs. Ball in a footnote to this chapter states that reportedly Lily Casey and Bob Olinger were engaged to be married.

Mrs. Klasner presents in her book new material through John S. Chisum's diary. Financial records revealing his great cattle interests validate the reputation he had established. Very interesting too is the specific description of the South Spring River Ranch which Chisum owned, the most complete ranch property in eastern New Mexico.

The story of John S. Chisum's blighted romance as he told it to Lily Casey is revealing. Readers may find it difficult to fit the highly sentimental tale into the life story of the "Cattle King of the Pecos" until one recalls the romantic aspects of Owen Wister's *The Virginian*, or Emerson Hough's *The Land of Heart's Desire*. One realizes then that John Chisum belonged to his age.

This is an important book and it is to be regretted that Mrs. Klasner did not live to see its publication. At this late day the author may be forgiven for taking such a prejudicial one-sided view of nearly all the characters in the Lincoln County War who were associated with the Murphy-Dolan side, while adopting as gospel truth everything their opponents said, and approving their actions. *My Girlhood Among Outlaws* deserves a high place on any list of books about Billy the Kid, John S. Chisum, Pat Garrett, or the Lincoln County War. Eve Ball of Ruidoso is to be commended for splendid work in salvaging the Klasner and Chisum manuscripts and for her fine contribution to the history of the "Billy the Kid" country.

*Albuquerque, N.M.*

WILLIAM A. KELEHER and JULIA M. KELEHER

SPANISH TEXAS: YESTERDAY AND TODAY. By Gerald Ashford. Austin and New York: The Pemberton Press, 1971. Pp. viii, 296. Illus., bibliog., index. \$7.50.

ALTHOUGH Texas possesses a rich cultural heritage from Spain, particularly from the eighteenth century, few scholars and laymen have devoted much attention to it. Instead, writers have emphasized Texas' struggle for independence, her involvement in the war between the United States and Mexico, and her development following the Compromise of 1850. Only rarely has there appeared a book-length study of any portion of Spanish administration of what was once Spain's *frontera septentrional* in the Northeast.

Mr. Ashford, fine arts editor for the San Antonio *Express-News*, relates in this work the familiar story of adventurers in Texas from Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca after 1528 to the arrival of Moses and Stephen Austin about the time of Mexican independence in 1821. However, these three centuries are marked by inconsistent Spanish interest in Texas; only the last one shows any concerted effort toward establishing permanent Spanish settlement in the region, and consequently experience with various problems becomes a major theme of the eighteenth century. The author spends most of his time on the many expeditions that trekked across Texas and the observations of foreign visitors (mostly illegal entrants). One-half of the book treats the period before lasting occupation was accomplished; the latter half begins with the settlement expedition of Captain Domingo de Ramón and St. Denis in 1716 and stresses the activities of the Marqués de Rubí, Philip Nolan, Zebulon Pike, and the numerous filibustering expeditions that dotted the two decades preceding Mexican independence from Spain.

Although there are twenty short chapters comprising the text, only the first eighteen provide continuity to the author's story, their organization being strictly chronological. The final two, "Texas Heritage of Spanish Law," and "Spanish Law in the Republic and State," are topical by nature and focus on the institution of the legal heritage of Texas from Spain and Mexico. They were published in professional journals earlier and seem out of place here. Not only are they a marked change of pace from the rest of the volume, but most of their subject matter deals with a period outside the scope of the present work. In addition to the text, there are seven illustrations at the rear of the volume and an adequate index. However, there are two serious deficiencies in the work. First, there are no maps whatsoever to familiarize the reader with geographical features and location of places in Texas. Second, not one footnote appears in the text, even for citation of

direct quotations. The author does explain his major source materials in his bibliography, organized by chapters. This section also shows his dependence upon secondary sources such as Carlos Castañeda's *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas* (mistitled in the bibliography) and other published accounts.

Basically, *Spanish Texas* is a study in political, military, and diplomatic history intended for a limited market. It is not designed for scholars, but even the general reader will have difficulty digesting its contents. There are many annoying typographical errors, random accenting of Spanish names, and even two blank pages (pp. 240-241) in this reviewer's copy. Mr. Ashford is to be complimented for tackling an interesting, important subject, and for accomplishing considerable research in available printed materials. He has certainly opened the door for further research on the Spanish experience in Texas. So have others before him. The real nagging problem is that he has not gone beyond earlier efforts and he has not conclusively proved his hypothesis that Spanish customs and institutions planted in the eighteenth century are the roots of the present Spanish tradition in Texas. Except for the land system and its contributions, he has not examined the structure of society, the colonial economy, and the administration of the province at all. In the end, this weakness, the failure to delve into primary materials relating to the grassroots characteristics of Spanish society in Texas, and the annoying mechanical drawbacks detract from the overall value of the work for both general reader and the historian interested in the real story of Spanish Texas.

*U.S. Air Force Academy*

OAKAH L. JONES, JR.

FELIPE DE NEVE: FIRST GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA. By Edwin A. Beilharz. San Francisco: California Historical Society, 1971. Pp. viii, 194. Apps., bibliog., index. \$12.95.

THIS is a short monograph on the career of Felipe de Neve as Governor of Alta California consisting of 137 pages of text and 33 pages of appendices which contain English translations of the following documents: Neve's service record; Viceroy Bucareli's instructions to Neve of September 30, 1774; Neve's comments on Father Serra in a letter to Teodoro de Croix of March 26, 1781; and Neve's instructions to Pedro Fages, his successor, of September 7, 1782. Neve's actual title was Governor of the Californias but he was instructed to move the capital from Loreto in Baja California to Monterey in 1776 and to take personal charge of affairs in Alta Califor-

nia. On these grounds Professor Beilharz labels him "first" governor of Alta California although in fact three Spanish officials commonly called governor preceded him at Monterey.

There is no question that Felipe de Neve was a man of exceptional importance in the history of California under Spain and this is a clearly written account which does more than any previous study to bring scholarly attention to bear on him. The work is based on Beilharz' doctoral dissertation entitled: "Felipe de Neve: Governor of California," done at the University of California at Berkeley in 1951. What changes have been made in the published work are mostly stylistic, although the author provides more information on the family of Neve and makes some minor factual alterations. He also attempts to bring the bibliography up to date. It presents an impressive array of primary sources but nonetheless the author seems to have missed some manuscript material in the Newberry Library, the library of the University of Mexico, and the E. C. Barker Texas History Center Library at the University of Texas. There are also some gaps in the secondary sources such as Mario Hernández Sánchez Barba's *La última expansión española en América* (Madrid, 1957) and Pablo L. Martínez, *Historia de la Baja California* (Mexico, n.d.) which prints Neve's report on that province. In the bibliography of his original dissertation the author provides references to an M.A. thesis by Mildred G. Ahlf on Neve and an article on him by Lindley Bynum in the *Historical Society of Southern California Publications*, which have been omitted from the printed version of the work.

Professor Beilharz states in his introduction that it is his intention to rectify the unfavorable impression of Neve gained from Franciscan sources championing Neve's redoubtable antagonist Father Junípero Serra. The author says that these sources do Neve an injustice by not explaining what lay behind Neve's actions. He disclaims any intention of championing Neve, however, and states that it is simply his aim to "see him as he was." The adjectives he applies to Father Serra, however, such as "wily," "cunning," with "the subtlety of the serpent," may not convince some readers that he is particularly impartial in this celebrated controversy. What is more, he does not follow his own recommendation of explaining what was behind the alleged lack of cooperation and secretiveness of Father Serra and the Franciscans when confronted by Neve's unsympathetic treatment.

The author divides his study into topics by devoting a chapter each to what he considers the major problems faced by Neve in California. The chapter on frontier administration, for instance, takes up such problems as Neve's mountain of correspondence with his superiors, which he had to write himself; his administration of justice, especially his problems with

unmarried soldiers who were apt to rape mission Indian girls; and other similar matters. In chapters on finance, missions, the army, the Neve reglamento or Regulations for Governing the Province of the Californias, founding the towns of San José and Los Angeles, he discusses in some detail these major concerns of the Governor. Neve, who was a typical product of his age, with unusual administrative ability, treated Indians with humanity, dealt roughly with missionaries, and did his impressive best to build up population and food supplies in California by promoting colonization and farming. His efforts were to be successful, although it can hardly be said, as Beilharz does, that Neve solved the difficulties that menaced California's existence. Many of those difficulties were still there after Neve died, but he did make a determined attack on the problems he encountered. The topical method of arranging his material provides reasonably thorough treatment for Professor Beilharz' major subjects but it has the disadvantage of repetition since most of the topics appear in all of the chapters despite their headings.

As its subtitle implies, this work is limited to a study of Felipe de Neve as Governor of Alta California. It is a pity that the author did not enlarge upon his dissertation and discuss in detail the career of Neve in Querétaro, Zacatecas, and Baja California before he became governor of Alta California and go on to consider his later brief career as commandant general of the Interior Provinces. These aspects of Neve's life are barely touched upon in the present study. There are a number of minor matters that catch the attention in the work, one of them being the author's references to the period of Mexican California as Spanish California (pp. 76, 84) which is both confusing and misleading. In spite of its blemishes, however, this work is a useful contribution to the history of California and it is to be hoped that it will encourage the preparation of further studies which will encompass the entire career of Felipe de Neve.

*University of Virginia*

C. ALAN HUTCHINSON

THE CHANGING PATTERN OF HOPI AGRICULTURE. By Maitland Bradfield. London: Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, 1971. Pp. vi, 66. Illus., apps., maps. \$6.60.

WHEN THE SOUTHWEST came under the custody of the United States at the mid-point of the last century, the first order of business was that of the exploration and assessment of this newly acquired region. The consensus verdict concerning the Hopi and their domain was that these friendly and industrious people were engaged in a hopeless struggle against impossible odds. To individuals from the more verdant East, the Hopi

country appeared to be a barren and desolate desert in which attempts at agriculture or even human existence were futile. The corollary thought was that these people were in evident decline and inevitably would become extinct in at most a few decades, adding the ruins of their villages to the numerous other monuments to failure which dotted the landscape. Hence, most of the early proposals for aid to the Hopi had inherent in them the idea that the most charitable act would be to remove them to a more productive and less inhospitable environment.

These judgments underestimated grossly both the resourcefulness and tenacity of the Hopi and the potential of their environment. To be sure, theirs is an area in which direct precipitation alone is deficient for productive agriculture. But the local rainfall is augmented by runoff from higher elevations, funneled to their vicinity by "washes" and springs. The water supply was arrested and husbanded by ingenious measures, such as the building of check dams, the erection of terraced gardens below the springs, planting deeply in the soil down to moisture-retaining levels, and planting on dunes and other accumulations of moisture-holding sand. These and other practices enabled the Hopi to produce crops of corn, beans, pumpkins, cotton, and gourds. These are native American cultigens which have become acclimatized to the arid Southwest through hundreds of years. More remarkable is that a profusion of Old World domesticates which were introduced during the Spanish mission period and later, and which thus had no prior adaptation to this desiccated region, also have been adopted quite readily into this specialized agricultural system. Among these are wheat, peach, apricot, watermelon, cantaloupe, and a great variety of vegetables and herbs.

The phenomenon of the delicate adjustment of Hopi agriculture to its parsimonious environmental base has acted as a magnet, drawing scholars representing the varied disciplines upon which it impinges. In the volume under review, Bradfield presents a quite thorough recapitulation and appraisal of the findings of previous investigators. He tests these accumulated data against his own field observations and the responses of informants to his interrogations. His field work, which was centered at the westernmost village of Oraibi, was carried out during the years 1966 through 1970 and totaled about seven months. His results make it apparent that he worked with dedication and energy.

Initially, Bradfield set for himself only limited objectives, but the almost inextricable interrelationships of various aspects of Hopi ecology seduced him into broader investigations, covering essentially the full spectrum of habitat and agricultural practices. His interest in the factors which dictate the location of fields led to the examination of historical geology, land

forms, climate, soils, water supply, and zones of vegetation. His concern with the effects of erosion on the reduction of arable land resulted in excursions into the history of climatic cycles, the time of livestock introductions, effects of overgrazing, and Hopi verbal history. Likewise, his looking into the influences of the introduction of more modern technology lured him into studies of acculturation, population trends, modification of land ownership patterns, and various effects manifested in the socio-political structure.

This broad array of data, along with its detailed analysis and interpretation, is compressed into a slender volume of just 66 pages. This product will be of greater concern and value to specialists as a technical resource than it will be to the general reader. The topically arranged text covers only the first 37 pages, leaving the remaining almost one-half of the volume for supporting and clarifying data in the form of copious notes, a postscript, four appendices, bibliography, twelve plates, and two large folding maps. The volume is generally free of errors and blemishes, is attractively prepared, and reflects a good level of scholarship. The two large folding maps are so bulky and heavy as to put a severe strain on the pocket and the paper cover. At ten cents per printed page, the volume seems somewhat overpriced.

The agriculture of the Hopi has become a classic example of subsistence farming under minimal environmental conditions. Bradfield demonstrates that the pattern is becoming highly modified and reduced by environmental and cultural changes. Those factors and the increasing adoption by the Hopi of the pervading commercial economy are bringing the native pattern close to extinction. It would seem that the subject deserves full exposition of the scope and style of the volumes by Edward F. Castetter and Willis H. Bell on *Pima and Papago Indian Agriculture* and on *Yuman Indian Agriculture* (University of New Mexico Press, 1942 and 1951 respectively). Such a project would consist primarily of organization of data and composition, as most of the necessary research has been accomplished. Bradfield has made a notable contribution toward this end by providing a mine of detailed information.

*University of Michigan*

VOLNEY H. JONES

HOW THE U.S. CAVALRY SAVED OUR NATIONAL PARKS. By H. Duane Hampton. Bloomington/London: Indiana University Press, 1971. Pp. viii, 246. Illus., bibliog., index. \$8.95.

HOLLYWOOD FILMMAKERS and Western history buffs have often romanticized the U.S. Cavalry. Professional historians have sometimes refused to take the cavalry seriously. This solid monograph takes the Army seriously

indeed. It deals with the role of the cavalry in administering Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Sequoia National Parks during the late 19th century and early 20th century, and it leaves no doubt that the Army performed an essential public service in undertaking the protection of these scenic preserves at a time when no other governmental agency was able to do so. From 1886 to 1918 in Yellowstone, and for shorter periods in Yosemite and Sequoia, the U.S. Cavalry patrolled the park borders, chased away poachers, built roads, and generally demonstrated its competence in dealing with some of the most difficult problems in park administration.

Professor Hampton makes a case that Army officers, rather than civilian superintendents, originated many of the modern-day park policies we take for granted. It was the Army, he argues, that had the institutional stamina to fight off the politicians who wanted to exploit the parks. It was the Army, he contends, that had the independence to resist local developmental pressures and the inventiveness to find extralegal ways, if necessary, to punish destructive frontiersmen and park visitors. He even asserts that the beginnings of the National Park Service interpretive programs may be traced to the simple act of Army troopers answering tourists' questions.

The National Parks were in need of help when the U.S. Cavalry came to the rescue. Established in 1872, Yellowstone was largely unorganized and unprotected under its first civilian superintendents. In 1886 the Secretary of the Interior finally bowed to political reality (no appropriations for park administration) and called in the Army. This was thought to be a temporary arrangement, but the troops stayed in Yellowstone until 1918. They were in Yosemite and Sequoia until about the same time. In all three parks the Army's record was generally good. To claim, as the author does, that the Army "saved" these parks is perhaps a small exaggeration, but his main point is undeniable, namely, that the U.S. Army played a central part in the early history of the national parks and contributed significantly to their administration and development.

The book is based on thorough research in the Yellowstone National Park Archives, the National Archives, public documents, and pertinent secondary sources. The chapters on Yellowstone are the best part of the book. The section on Captain George S. Anderson, the acting superintendent of Yellowstone in the early 1890's, is particularly interesting. But the book may be criticized on several grounds. First, the author reaches a little too far in identifying precedent-setting actions by the Army. The Park Service interpretive programs, for example, sprang more from the public relations concerns of Steve Mather and Horace Albright than from the efforts of the Army. Second, the narrative gets bogged down occasionally in detailed discussions of legislative debates affecting Yellowstone

Park; this tends to shift the focus to Congressional politics and away from the Army's work in the park. Third, the author avoids dealing with the parks that were in existence before 1918 but were never administered by the Army, such as Mount Rainier, Glacier, and Crater Lake. Clearly the Army did not "save" these parks in quite the same sense as in Yellowstone, Yosemite, and Sequoia.

These criticisms are not intended to detract from the author's achievement. The book fills a significant gap in the history of the national parks and is a valuable addition to the lengthening list of scholarly books on conservation history. The bibliography is excellent.

*University of California, Davis*

DONALD C. SWAIN

THE BRACERO PROGRAM: INTEREST GROUPS AND FOREIGN POLICY. By Richard B. Craig. Austin and London: University of Texas Press, 1971. Pp. xviii, 233. Bibliog., index. \$7.50.

THIS BOOK, which was apparently a doctoral dissertation and bears some of the stigmata of that genre, is on the whole a comprehensive and worthwhile study of the history of the bracero question over the last third of the century, although I had some difficulty with Dr. Craig's English style, which tends to the rococo, with an awkwardness and an occasional inexactness in the use of words. Dr. Craig's interpretations of events are generally intelligent and informed, although on occasion alternative explanations that are equally plausible and account equally well for the evidence are not examined. The only point on which I would seriously disagree with his interpretations is his condemnation of the agricultural policies of the Mexican government without examining those policies carefully, especially in view of the constraints under which Mexican governments necessarily had to operate, and the benefits which those policies did in fact bring to the country.

The author draws on quite a variety of sources—United States and Mexican newspapers, monographs, government reports, Congressional hearings and debates—and manages to bring to bear discussion of a very wide range of factors that prove to be relevant to the evolution of policy on the bracero question. Thus he examines the influence of such disparate orders of reality as United States politics, Mexican economic problems, agricultural conditions in the Southwest, diplomatic practice, bureaucratic infighting, and legal conventions. This versatility of approach is one of the strongest features of the book.

On the whole, Dr. Craig knows what he is talking about as he moves from one level of the problem to another, especially when dealing with its

political aspects. It is a fascinating story, in which a shifting balance of political pressures is shown to shape the evolution of the bracero program.

For Mexico the program was valuable primarily as a source of foreign exchange and as a safety valve for the surplus agricultural population, although it also had many subsidiary benefits, such as changes in the knowledge and attitudes of the returning braceros. At the same time, the program was politically rather embarrassing because it demonstrated that many Mexicans were not being adequately employed within the country and/or preferred life in the United States; moreover, incidents of discrimination and poor treatment of the bracero in the United States provided repeated hurts to national dignity.

On the United States side, the principal pressures were from the growers, who of course supported the program, and from organized labor, which opposed it because of its depressive effect on employment and wages of U.S. nationals. Conditions of labor shortage during World War II and the Korean War, together with the desire of Mexico for the program, tipped the political balance in favor of the growers until the program was discontinued in 1964. But the growers did not have things all their own way. As Dr. Craig indicates, although the growers were stronger in Congress, organized labor managed to use its influence with the Secretary of Labor to gain some of its demands through administrative rulings, and he points out that the fringe benefits granted the braceros by treaty created anomalies that proved a stimulus for legislation to improve the lot of domestic farm workers.

This part of the story leads, in his otherwise very good final chapter, to Craig's conclusion, which for my taste is a little too sanguine, that the power of special business interests, acting especially through the undemocratic power structure of the Congress, "should not be cause for undue alarm." That may be so, but to me, even after reading this worthwhile book, the influence of special interests in the decision-making process remains cause for quite a bit of "due alarm." The bracero program did some good, in various ways, on both sides of the border; but that it did so was, from the point of view of the public interest on the U.S. side, a fortunate accident rather than constituting some kind of validation of the processes by which, through the push and tug of special interests, decisions were made.