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Book Reviews

BOOK NOTES

The University of Oklahoma Press recently released paperback editions of *Geronimo: The Man, His Time, His Place* by Angie Debo ($12.95) and *Fire and the Spirits: Cherokee Law from Clan to Court* by Rennard Strickland ($9.95). Debo's biography of Geronimo was well received when first published in 1976 and remains an important contribution to southwestern history. This thoroughly researched, thoughtful, and well written book is the best biography of one of America's most famous Indian leaders. *Fire and the Spirits* is a different kind of work but is also outstanding. Strickland, of Cherokee/Osage extraction, is Shleppey Research Professor of Law and History at the University of Tulsa and was editor-in-chief of the revised and updated *Felix S. Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law.* First published in 1975, *Fire and the Spirits* studies traditional Cherokee law and the way it changed to about 1900. It is also a study of cultural survival because, while forms and institutions changed, the core of Cherokee law remained.

Also available from the University of Oklahoma Press is *In the Shadow of Fremont: Edward Kern and the Art of American Exploration, 1845–1860* by Robert V. Hine ($18.95 cloth), published in 1962 under the title *Edward Kern and American Expansion.* Kern was an artist and cartographer for John Fremont's 1845 expedition and his disastrous fourth expedition into the San Juan Mountains and later participated in naval expeditions to Japan and Siberia. Fifty-four illustrations, some on New Mexico topics, are included. The same press recently published *Butterflies of the Rocky Mountain States* by Clifford Ferris and F. Martin Brown ($15.95 paper and $35.00 cloth), which is a comprehensive field guide.

The Dreadful Month by Carlton Jackson (Bowling Green State University Popular Press, cloth $16.95, paper $7.95) is basically a history of coal mining disasters in December 1907, a month in which from 700 to 1,100 miners died. It was the worst month in the worst year of coal mining in the United States. Several later explosions at Dawson, New Mexico, are mentioned in the text. *The People Talk: American Voices from the Great Depression* by Benjamin Appel was first published in 1940. It is now available from Simon & Schuster in paper ($8.25). Novelist Appel traveled across the United States in the 1930s and talked with people from all walks of life. It provides a good view of the Great Depression and is a very useful volume of popular history.

The Museum of New Mexico Press recently published *Runs Far: Son of the Chichimecs* written and illustrated by Alice M. Wesche (paper $6.95). This children's novel is the story of a Chichimec boy who travels to the trading town of Casas Grandes in Mexico around A.D. 1200. Heavily illustrated, it provides a picture of Chichimec life.

A revised edition of *Chicano: The Evolution of a People* by Renato Rosaldo, Robert A. Calvert, and Gustav L. Seligmann, Jr. has just been published by Krieger Publishing Company (cloth $17.50). Originally published in 1973, this large volume includes revisions and the addition of six new chapters. The editors have brought together forty-two essays on a variety of topics ranging from the borderlands to contemporary topics. Among the concluding essays is an analysis of the current state of Chicano history. This volume has been a useful text, and the additional items will enhance its value to students.

Book Reviews

THE WEST AND RECONSTRUCTION. By Eugene H. Berwanger. Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 1981. Pp. xiv, 294. Notes, appendixes, bibliog., index. $18.95.

MANY STUDIES HAVE EXAMINED the topic of Reconstruction and the post-Civil War issues that resulted from it. This is the first book, however, to look at the subject of Reconstruction in the trans-Mississippi West and relate local attitudes to the entire regional picture. The author has produced a systematic examination of the response to Reconstruction in the West, and his findings, in many cases, alter many popular concepts about the early West and its people. Primarily, the book focuses on racial thought in the post-Civil War West and the responses of the people in the West to Reconstruction. As with western opinion on the race issue prior to the Civil War, the post-War opinions reflected in politics and editorials pointed out many glaring inconsistencies on the question of voting rights as well as other reform measures. While a majority of western Republicans advocated black voting rights for the defeated South, there was much resistance to giving blacks a voice in politics within western states and territories.

In one western state or territory after another, Berwanger provides evidence that for the period from 1865 to 1870 Reconstruction was the dominant issue in western politics. It was the issue on which western Republicans and Democrats differed. During these years, the author found, Republican leaders and many newspaper editors openly approved the advanced racial viewpoint that radicals championed in Congress. Nor were these opinions limited to urban areas of the West. They were expressed in such rural areas as Troy, Kansas, as well as cities like San Francisco and Minneapolis.

The author tries to demonstrate westerners' concerns about national affairs in major issues of the Andrew Johnson administration. Much attention, for example, was paid to the patronage issue. This issue, in turn, was tied closely into the growing tensions between Congress and the president over Congressional Reconstruction. The most heated arguments in Congress were reflected in local and regional politics, particularly as they relate to black suffrage. While the impact of Reconstruction on western politics differed within each state and territory, it generally served to provide a foundation for the revitalization of the Democratic party in the West.

The book provides students of the West and the Civil War with some important and significant findings. Although the author at times almost overwhelms his readers with newspaper quotes, the text generally is quite readable. The section on Edmund G. Ross and his role in the Johnson impeachment is particularly well-written. One might, however, question the inclusion of an extended discussion of the polygamy issue. At least its significance should have been made clearer.

Professor Berwanger has made an important contribution to the study of the West. His findings are sound; the research is excellent; and his writing is clear. He has pioneered in his study of a complex period in the West. Perhaps more studies will follow to clarify the public's hazy understanding of western politics between the Civil War and the Populist movement.

Gerald R. Ford Library and Museum DON W. WILSON

AMERICAN LABOR IN THE SOUTHWEST: THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS. Edited by James C. Foster. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1982. Pp. xii, 236. Notes, index. $18.50 cloth; $9.85 paper.

THIRTEEN HISTORIANS AND LABOR LEADERS contributed to this volume of fourteen essays that focus on the history of the American Southwest and other areas, such as Hawaii and northern Mexico, where labor developments tended to influence or interact with those of the Southwest. The subjects of the essays range over a wide field to embrace labor's involvement in mining, agriculture, politics, strikes, organizations, and so on, throughout a century.

The task of organizing such diversity into a unified volume was obviously difficult. Nevertheless, James C. Foster, editor and contributor, successfully has overcome this difficulty by a skillful grouping of the essays into five major topics—the Western Federation of Miners, the Industrial Workers of the World, the Rise of Unionized Farm Workers, Mexican Labor North and South of the Border, and Labor and Politics. In addition, Foster's introduction and his short overview essays for each topic provide linkage and cohesion to the diverse subjects of his contributors.

The three essays concerning the WFM (two by Foster, the other by David H. Dinwoodie) describe the positive effect of Charles Moyer's innovative leadership in Alaska and Arizona, analyze statistically the theories that explain the fall of the WFM, and trace the efforts of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers to organize the copper workers of the Southwest during the thirties and forties. Two essays by Earl Bruce White and James Byrkit compose the section on the IWW. White reexamines the role of the IWW organizers in the Mid-Continent Oil Field, the Krieger Case, the Tulsa Outrage, and the Wichita Case, and concludes that they were of greater importance in IWW history than heretofore recognized. In his essay on the Bisbee deportations, Byrkit takes a fresh look at that outrage against labor. Of the three essays on the unionization of farm workers, two are written by participants (H. L. Mitchell and the late Arthur Carstens) in the drive to improve agricultural labor. A founder of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union, Mitchell reviews developments in farm labor from 1942 to 1960, whereas Carstens, a former professor of labor relations at UCLA, reexamines the historical context from which emerged Cesar Chávez, the United Farm Workers and the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act. In a third essay, Edward D. Beechert assesses the role that race played in delaying the organization of Hawaii's farm workers and the ultimate success of Harry Bridges and others

of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union in overcoming racial differences to effect organization in the forties.

Two of the three essays concerning labor in Mexico and the Southwest focus on developments below the border. In these essays, John M. Hart and Rodney Anderson investigate the role of radicals in the evolution of Mexican labor and reach different conclusions about its significance. And David Maciel outlines the history of Mexican worker immigration to the United States. In their examination of labor and politics, Paul Mandel analyzes the importance of labor in the career of Congressman Carl Hayden of Arizona, while George N. Green reviews the antilabor character of Texas politics during the forties and fifties. In the final essay, Monsignor Charles O. Rice reflects on his role in the purge of Communist-led unions from the CIO in the late forties.

This volume is an informative and interesting review of southwest labor history. Some of the essays cover familiar ground, while others examine subjects that heretofore have been of interest only to specialists. However, students of labor, sociology, political science, and the American West will find this work to be instructive concerning the complexities of southwest labor and its place in the American labor movement.

Southeast Missouri State University GEORGE G. SUGGS, JR.

OIL BOOMS: SOCIAL CHANGE IN FIVE TEXAS TOWNS. By Roger M. Olien and Diana Davids Olien. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1982. Pp. xiv, 220. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $16.95.

OIL BOOM TOWNS HAVE BECOME a familiar and settled part of the landscape of American popular mythology. From Clark Gable in *Boom Town* to the lurid reports of flush times in Alaska, the oil town has seemed secure in its violence, flamboyance, and emotional appeal. In this fascinating and persuasive book, Roger M. Olien and Diana Davids Olien do for the oil boom town legend what Robert Dykstra did for the Kansas cattle towns of the 1870s. They strip away exaggeration and fantasy to show communities responding to sudden economic and cultural change. Five oil towns in West Texas did not experience "social chaos" (p. 18). The residents of Odessa, Snyder, McCamey, Midland, and Wink sought, within accepted social institutions and the structure of their industry, to build an orderly and coherent society.

The Oliens construct their revisionist thesis with materials gathered from interviewing residents of these towns, government records, and an extensive array of historical sources. They are never strident or unfair. Instead, they allow their findings to emerge clearly and carefully in a series of lucid and well-organized chapters on population, housing, public services, women, minorities, crime, and amusements. "As startling as were the changes oil booms brought to communities," they conclude, "the end results of petroleum development were, by and large, positive" (p. 170–71).

The chapter on women and the family is particularly effective in refuting the notion that the feminine impact on oil towns was either that of a lady of the

evening or a prissy church-goer stamping out good clean fun. Instead, the authors show the opportunities that the oil industry offered for a few female geologists, the jobs created for women in trades that supported petroleum, and the rigors that the wives of oil workers overcame. "It took moral grit," they note, "to adjust to the physical grit always in the Texas air" (p. 95). Here as elsewhere the Oliens reveal a nice sense for the apt quotation to make their case. There are vivid portraits of the wife with a dead child who stood immobile in her door looking at the cemetery or the woman who found that restaurants in Fort Stockton did not serve "Oil Field White Trash" (p. 98).

As Dykstra did for the cattle towns, the authors dispel the picture of endless violence in the oil communities. Only Wink matched the stereotype because of a local crime ring and corrupt law enforcement. For the other towns there were very few homicides, and floating bad checks was the most prevalent criminal activity. Residents tolerated some gambling and prostitution, but generally they hoped for legality and respectability as well. As one citizen put it to the Oliens: "I think most any of them was a lot safer to be in those days than some of these little towns are now" (p. 41).

Students of the Texas past, the oil business, and American social history generally will find much of interest in this well-done monograph. The Oliens have brought the oil boom towns out of the shadows and into the main current of historical scholarship.

University of Texas at Austin LEWIS L. GOULD

THE DUST BOWL: AN AGRICULTURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY. By R. Douglas Hurt. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1982. Pp. x, 214. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $19.95 cloth; $9.95 paper.

IT IS OBLIGATORY to refer to the Dust Bowl in courses that deal with the 1930s in American history. Some instructors show the film "The Plow That Broke the Plains" or assign as required reading John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. What few do is to take a solid, factual approach to the Dust Bowl. A lick, a promise, and some moralizing too often seem enough.

A small band of scholars, including Donald Worster and most recently R. Douglas Hurt, has tried to remedy this problem. Hurt's book is distinguished by the attention he gives to defining the Dust Bowl and the conditions that have characterized it. As he points out, it is a geographical area encompassing eastern Colorado and New Mexico, western Kansas, and the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles. This area is unusually vulnerable to awesome and destructive dust storms because of the frequency of drought, strong winds, sparse vegetation, and loose soil. When these conditions are present together, the result will be severe dust storms.

The most dramatic American incidence of dust storms took place in the Dust Bowl from early 1932 to early 1940. This was largely because an ingredient had been added to their natural causes. The ingredient was the settlement and cultivation of the area beginning in the 1880s. During the following decades, set-

tlement increased and with it the further breaking up of the soil. Ignorance, the introduction of power implements, and greed, especially in the operations of nonresident or suitcase farmers, combined to render the area's soil even more vulnerable to the inevitable coming of drought and wind. The result was the disaster called the Dust Bowl of the 1930s.

Hurt uses a subject-matter approach. Thus first outlined in his book are the history of dust storms in the area for the two generations before the 1930s and the causes of such storms. Then follow chapters on the storms of the 1930s, life then in the Dust Bowl, soil conservation efforts, and the administration of relief. Hurt adds special chapters on the cattle problem of the Dirty Thirties, the Shelterbelt project, and later dust storms, especially during the 1950s. Each of these sections is informative, well-documented, and clearly and sometimes superbly written. Moreover, the book contains several useful maps as well as pertinent photographs. The overall result is a work that no one seriously interested in the Dust Bowl can afford to ignore.

The sum of the whole is, however, less than that of its parts. Hurt's subject-matter approach and his skipping around in each chapter from place to place and often from year to year give readers a diminished sense of the chronological flow and the impact of events. He also focuses too narrowly on the Dust Bowl. Thus he misses the opportunity to set this disaster firmly in the context of Great Plains and national history, particularly that the Dust Bowl was a part of a larger regional problem, severe drought, that in turn was a complication of the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Nevertheless, one can compliment Hurt for his useful work in dealing with specific aspects of the Dust Bowl, particularly its causes. Readers should take to heart his injunction that "Dust Bowl farmers must continue to make major adjustments in their farming operations as changing conditions dictate" (159). One would only add that this applies to all residents of the area, given the rise of other enterprises there in recent decades.

University of Kansas DONALD R. MCCOY

NEIGHBORS—MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES: WETBACKS AND OIL. By Robert Jones Shafer and Donald Mabry. Chicago: Nelson Hall, 1982. Pp. x, 241. Bibliog., index. $18.95 cloth; $9.95 paper.

THIS WORK BY SHAFER AND MABRY offers so little in terms of insight, carefully marshaled data, judicious conclusions, and spritely writing that this reviewer without hesitancy can state that it possesses no redeeming value.

Capitalizing on two major problems currently besetting United States–Mexican relations—undocumented aliens and the recent oil bonanza in Mexico—Mabry and Shafer's book fails to provide the good work needed by Mexicanists and U.S. diplomatic historians. Instead, hypothetical scenarios and a parade of misconceptions befuddle rather than enhance the reader's understanding of the problems facing the two neighbors. While implying an analysis of current problems and

providing contemporary statistical data, the authors present a tedious, and somewhat distorted rehash of Mexican history from pre-Columbian times to the present.

Targeted for a general audience, the work forces the reader to endure an unending array of redundancies and shibboleths. Consequently, the ultimate attitude emerging is: "Who really gives a damn?" A random sampling provides ample evidence of the errors—fact, misinterpretation, and typographical—inherent in the work. While Mabry and Shafer state that only Indians paid a head tax that constituted "a badge of their dependent status" (p. 51), all free vassals of the Crown of Castile paid tribute. If Indians received little or no justice, then, can the success of the General Indian Court founded by Viceroy Martín Enríquez in the 1570s be viewed as a failure of justice?

Despite recent literature on Victoriano Huerta indicating that *el usurpador* probably did not order the assassination of Francisco Madero in 1913, Mabry and Shafer clearly agree with Woodrow Wilson that Huerta specifically ordered the murder of Madero and Pino Suárez. Similarly, Mabry and Shafer state the sympathies of the United States lay with the rebels led by Adolfo de la Huerta in December 1923, whereas actions of the United States contributed significantly to his defeat by Alvaro Obregón.

Finally, Mabry and Shafer state that "Mexico has been a violent society in many senses since the Spanish conquest began in 1519" (p. 201). Implicitly they create the impression that pre-Columbian cultures personified some Rousseauean ideal, when in fact, the very savagery of the Aztecs led other Nahua-speaking tribes to join Cortés to bring down Montezuma's empire.

In discussing the Mexican American, the authors fall prey to ready clichés and accept questionable verities. Refusing to deal with the problem of legal or illegal immigrant labor and its role in cultural reinforcement, the authors also avoid dealing with the cultural schizophrenia that Mexican-American laborers feel vis-à-vis immigrants from Mexico.

In lieu of a bibliography the reader is offered a haphazard selection of readings, which does not seem to be integrated into the text in any significant way. Various errata detract from the quality of the work and sharply throw into question the care used by the authors in preparing their study. Regrettably, this is a book that will enlighten neither serious scholars, the general public, nor undergraduates interested in United States–Mexican relations. While some interesting statistical information is available, the sheer sloppiness of the presentation throws even the numbers into question.

University of Montana MANUEL MACHADO

THE RED RIVER IN SOUTHWESTERN HISTORY. By Carl Newton Tyson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981. Pp. xiii, 222. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $14.95.

THE RED RIVER HAS enjoyed a central position in the history of the American West. Since the arrival of Indians in North America to the present era some tribe, nation, or state has cherished the river for its advantage; claimed ownership of

it, tried to discover its secrets, or attempted to change it. Hence, conflict or rivalry has been a central theme in the history of the Red River, and until the 1920s, the river has been a center of controversy as well as boundary.

Although many works and studies have been made and published in which the Red River served as a scene or a focal point, Professor Tyson's *The Red River in Southwestern History* is distinguished from most of those works because the "very presence" of the river is involved in the events that he chronicles.

This volume is not a history of the region, or even of the Red River Valley. It is the story of how the river has had great economic, political, and social significance in the American West. Hence, the book is of significance. There is little that is completely new to scholars or serious students in the field. However, what is of interest to them is the well-written accounts of the events portrayed, based upon sound scholarship and documentary evidence. Beginning with a chapter on the Red River and its people, the author does a splendid survey of the river, its long course of twelve hundred miles formed by many rivulets joining at the Llano Estacado, and following its course down to its junction with the Mississippi. The author notes that when the Red River discharges its muddy water into the Mississippi, three hundred miles above its mouth, it joins waters from the Appalachian Mountains to the Rocky Mountains, or, in short, it joins waters from every state west of Cumberland Gap and east of the Continental Divide.

In addition, Professor Tyson gives a sketch of the Indian tribes, particularly the Caddoan Indians confederation. In his use of and spelling of Indian names the author rightfully gives the orthography as given in the contemporary accounts instead of running the risk of erring when reducing all Indian tribe spelling to the standardized identification of the tribes by modern anthropologists.

Moving quickly from the first contact of the Indians and the Red River with the first European contacts made by Luis de Moscos and Coronado, to first French contacts made by Joliet-Marquette and LaSalle, Professor Tyson immediately runs into a well-written general overview and interpretive account of international rivalry, or "struggle for empire," centering around the romantic character of Juchereau de St. Denis and the Franco-Spanish struggle for Texas-Louisiana. The conflict continued in America even during some periods when the "home" governments were temporarily at peace in Europe.

France had lost Louisiana in 1762 because of problems not connected with the province. In a sense the same occurred when Napoleon sold the Louisiana territory to the United States with undefined boundaries in 1803.

The latter half of the volume under review is the greater contribution, especially in a narrative overview and interpretation. Here is the development of the Red River under American rule; the building of forts, exploration, the Indian boundary and area beyond the 100th meridian; and especially the explorations of Randolph B. Marcy, who, in 1852, set out on the last great exploration of the American West to discover the headwaters of the Red River.

In relatively short space, Professor Tyson has written a very good volume, one that will be of interest and of use to student and public alike. He has supplied his text with notes that indicate he is well-acquainted with the standard and not-

so-standard works, as well as public documents. The text contains a number of useful illustrations and maps, all put together by the University of Oklahoma Press in its usual tasteful manner.

San Diego State University ABE NASATIR

MOUNTAIN ISLANDS AND DESERT SEAS: A NATURAL HISTORY OF THE U.S.–MEXICAN BORDERLANDS. By Frederick R. Gehlbach. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1982. Pp. xvi, 298. Illus., notes, index. $19.95.

IN MOUNTAIN ISLANDS AND DESERT SEAS Frederick Gehlbach combines the insight of a naturalist with the skill of an ecologist to give us a unique view of the "Borderlands," a diverse geographical belt covering landscapes roughly one hundred miles on either side of the international border between Mexico and the United States. This fascinating region was true wilderness only a few centuries ago; however, the instruments of man—the "arch predator" and creator of "unnatural history"—have perpetrated formidable and generally irreversible changes in its natural tapestry.

After years of sleuthing the Borderlands, Gehlbach presents us with a factual and philosophical appraisal of their condition. In doing so he takes us gradually from the mouth of the Rio Grande to the western Sonoran desert. Yet while his trip contains the elements of a travelogue, it is as much a series of conceptual excursions. Chapter 5, for example, begins as a 10,000-year-old scene near the junction of the Pecos and Rio Grande. Then it becomes a discussion of extinction trends among large Borderland carnivores. Anyone concerned (pro or con) about coyotes will read here that not only have we selected for increasingly intelligent individuals in attempting to exterminate them, but that the cost of this effort has far exceeded simultaneous gains in the saving of livestock.

Mountain Islands and Desert Seas nicely illustrates the scientific approach to a broad and interrelated set of regional problems. Whether readers care much for natural history, they will soon realize that the book is considerably more than a series of carefully documented animal and plant niche relationships. Its strength, in my opinion, lies in its revelation of *patterns* of human-induced changes in the Borderland region. Thus, although its isolated stories are indeed well-told and entertaining, the ideas synthesized from them are what we need to remember.

Gehlbach takes excellent advantage of historic documents relating to boundary exploration. He employs border commissioner William Emory's century-old illustrations—together with his own well-chosen color photos—to add aesthetic perspective. And he repeatedly uses Aldo Leopold's metaphor of "the ecological theater and the evolutionary play" to keep us aware of the essence of biological cause and effect as it applies to his narrative.

I wish Gehlbach had gone beyond his secure knowledge of vertebrates and plants and had given greater consideration to the invertebrate animals that comprise the vast majority of species in the Borderlands. We now know, for instance, that nematodes, termites, and harvester ants have a profound influence on Bor-

derland ecosystems. Notwithstanding this exception, I strongly recommend Gehlbach's book to a wide audience. Its crisp prose and depth of thought should appeal to anyone concerned with management of the easily disturbed landscapes of the "Sun Belt." The last chapter, if nothing else, should be assigned reading for politicians, government officials, and civic leaders. The fate of the Borderlands will be decided by their informed ideas.

University of New Mexico CLIFFORD CRAWFORD

GENOCIDE AND VENDETTA: THE ROUND VALLEY WARS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA. By Lynnwood Carranco and Estle Beard. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981. Pp. x, 403. Illus., notes, bibliog., index, appendix. $19.95

THIS BOOK CONTAINS two monographs. One examines the ethnohistory of extreme northwestern California, and the other chronicles selected incidents in the pioneer history of Mendocino County.

Much of the action takes place in Round Valley in the most rugged part of the coastal range in northern California. The Indians called the mountains that sequestered Round Valley the Yolla Bollies. Within the surrounding area lived the Yuki, Wailaki, Huchnom, and Lassik peoples. Prospectors, hide hunters, and ranchers came to the region in the 1840s. Before their arrival, according to the authors, the Indians lived a sylvan idyl. "Tales of famine," readers are assured, "so common among most primitive peoples, were rare . . . , although at the end of winter, food supplies usually ran low" (p. 20). With the California Gold Rush there began "a period of Anglo-American genocide against the native inhabitants of the Yolla Bolly Country, who were almost exterminated in less than ten years" (p. 3). The story though dramatic is hardly unique. What is interesting is the authors' surprise that pioneers could be cruel and bloody-minded. There are minimal attempts to investigate what was going on, especially in federal Indian policy, beyond Round Valley. Rather, numbers of dead Indians are tallied without any attempt to establish the veracity of the sources. That the Yolla Bolly country was the scene of one of the more lamentable confrontations between native peoples and non-Indian interlopers is not to be doubted. What is more questionable is how was this genocide?

It is time that historians begin to address the issue since the term appears with increasing frequency in books about native American history. The word, one suspects, has been trivialized. We unfortunately live in a century where genocide has been practiced. Contrary to the authors' repeated assertions, the records do not show "that a majority of the settlers took an active part in the mass genocide in the Yolla Bolly Country" (p. 126). Is it necessary for the governments of state and nation to support genocide? Can individual settlers commit genocide? Is the neologism "cultural genocide" valid? These questions are never asked, let alone answered. Instead the authors blithely conclude that between 1848 and 1865 a "one-sided contest was waged in the Northern District of California between the Indian and the white man. The struggle between a strong, more civilized people

and a weak, backward race for possession of the land was an age-old one." Such anachronisms demonstrate one of the problems with the narrative. What could the editors at Oklahoma have been thinking about to allow such offensive banalities to pass review? Carranco and Beard are not historians but rather residents of the region about which they write. That in itself is no proscription against writing history, but there is more to the craft than stringing together a number of persons, dates, and incidents.

Section Two takes the story of Round Valley from 1865 to 1905. It is more solid in narrative and purpose. The authors rely heavily on the unpublished manuscript of Frank Asbill, the son of the first pioneer family in the valley. Asbill wrote "The Last of the West" while imprisoned in San Quentin for second-degree murder. Like his forebears, Asbill is only one among a rogue's gallery of cut-purses, poisoners, and various miscreants who decorate the story. Except for the tiresome device of quoting passages in outrageous dialect from the manuscript—conversations the imaginative Asbill could not have heard—the narrative is much livelier and, at times, humorous. The book is well illustrated and may prove of interest to devotees of California.

Northern Arizona University L. G. MOSES

MONTANA'S RIGHTEOUS HANGMEN: THE VIGILANTES IN ACTION. By Lew L. Callaway. Edited by Lew L. Callaway, Jr. Foreword by Merrill G. Burlingame. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982. Pp. xxii, 233. Illus., appendixes, index. $12.95.

VIGILANTE EXTRALEGAL ACTIVITY has always been a popular item in western history and literature. Frequently, actual accounts have been embellished because authors and publishers felt the need to supply the reader with even more excitement. This is fortunately not the treatment accorded Llewellyn L. Callaway's remembrances of Montana's vigilante committee actions from 1863 to 1887.

Callaway moved to Virginia City, Montana Territory, at an early age and grew up working on a ranch partly owned by his father and James Williams, executive officer of the Montana Vigilante Committee. In adulthood he became a prominent frontier attorney and jurist. The recollections of the senior L. L. Callaway, as edited by his son, contain nine chapters, three appendixes, thirty excellent photographs, but only one map. Also included is a concise preface by the editor and a rather unnecessary and meaningless foreword by Merrill G. Burlingame.

Substantively these recollections offer much. Foremost, a great deal of information about the organization of the Montana vigilantes is provided. This information occasionally contradicts but more often expands and amplifies previous knowledge, usually drawn from the work of Thomas Dimsdale. Also the role of the vigilante executive officer, in this case Williams, is heavily documented although the reader must always remember the interrelationships between the Callaways and the Williamses before formulating a personal assessment. A further contribution concerns individual cases the vigilante committee handled. Much

new specific data is provided, for example, concerning Henry Plummer, George Ives, and Joseph Slade.

The volume raises a number of questions. Why would a dedicated, sworn upholder of law, Judge Callaway, glorify and sanctify law-breaking? The vigilantes coerced confessions, made errors in their procedures, and by the summer of 1864 were "out of control," hanging people for misdemeanors and shaking down the business community (chapter 5). The judge seems to have enjoyed violence as featured in his bravado description of Alder Gulch and his questionable analysis (in light of recent scholarship) of what he calls the all-pervasive fear on the overland trails.

Who are the vigilantes? the outlaws? Eric Hobsbawm's theories about European peasant outlaws have been recently applied to the American West with mixed findings. They do not seem to describe Montana's desperadoes. Might they more aptly explain the social and economic motivations of the vigilantes themselves? And then there is the enigmatic George Williams. Why did he commit suicide? Was the burden of the vigilantes too much, even for this Virginian-like Montanan to handle? His role in the institutionalization of Montana's vigilantes, significantly *after* the first hanging, seems to be one-dimensional. Could such a popular frontier movement have been so singularly guided?

Truly, the recollections of Judge Llewellyn L. Callaway, Sr., are a delight to read and an important source for frontier historians to ponder.

Texas Tech University JOHN R. WUNDER

TEXAS' LAST FRONTIER: FORT STOCKTON AND THE TRANS-PECOS, 1861–1895. By Clayton W. Williams. Edited by Ernest Wallace. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1982. The Centennial Series of the Association of Former Students, Texas A & M University, no. 10. Pp. xv, 457. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $19.50.

IN THE VAST TEXAS EXPANSE between the Pecos River and El Paso a harsh, oftentimes cruel frontier existed. Although the desert air was clean and healthful, death was a common occurrence. Comanches, Kiowas, Apaches, and Kickapoos roamed continually, attacking Mexicans and Texans as well as fighting one another. In the main, settlers herded cattle and sheep, hauled freight, or bartered necessary goods and, whenever irrigation was possible, tried to eke a living from the stubborn soil. But no matter what the occupation, they struggled to survive in this beautifully desert-like but inhospitable land. Even animals succumbed to this difficult terrain, especially horses in their attempts to find forage and water. Yet a few hardy pioneers survived, once again demonstrating the indomitability of those participating in the American westward movement.

Clayton Williams, an oilman and rancher whose father helped bring civilization to this land west of the Pecos, has recorded a thirty-five-year expanse of history thoroughly and in detail. In almost diary-like form, he has written what transpired on this last Texas frontier; each chapter ranges in time-periods from six months

to three years. And nothing has escaped his notice—from prices at the Fort Stockton commissary to the kinds of goods and materials in demand to family lineage. Always, however, whether discussing soldiers, Indians, gunfighters, or pioneers, the overriding theme in this time-frame had to be violence.

With the help of Emeritus Professor Ernest Wallace of Texas Tech University and special assistant Gaines Kincaid, Williams has written a worthwhile work. Although the information will not attract a wide audience, it will be of great interest to the descendants of those who tamed this frontier. And for historians who are concerned with Texas or western history, this book must be taken into consideration.

Texas Christian University BEN PROCTER

CLIO'S COWBOYS: STUDIES IN THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE CATTLE TRADE. By Don D. Walker. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1981. Pp. xxi, 210. Notes, index. $13.95.

DON WALKER PROBABLY KNOWS more about western history and literature than anyone else does. Realizing that Walker is a recognized expert, one approaches his new book cautiously, a little afraid probably that the grand old man will begin to be a bit pompous, if not downright empty. One has higher hopes for the book than he would if Walker were only a bright greenhorn on the range because when Walker talks about the West, people listen. Reading his book thus cautiously, I was pleased to discover that Walker is as knowledgeable and intellectually stimulating as ever. In this personal book about the classics of the cattle trade, he is having his say, but his say will make a lively contribution to students and teachers of this perpetually interesting subject.

Some of the writings in Walker's book are brand new; others are revisions of works that have appeared elsewhere. Taken together, this collection of essays discusses and raises questions about the essential texts of the cattle range days: McCoy's *Historic Sketches of the Cattle Trade,* Roosevelt's works, and old standards like *The Trail Drivers of Texas* and *Prose and Poetry of the Live Stock Industry* are all scrutinized here. Additionally, Walker takes a close look at the most basic secondary sources: the works of Osgood, Dale, Webb, and Pelzer represent the historians; those of Douglas Branch, Frantz and Choate, Dobie, and DeVoto represent the critics who have studied the cowboy and cattleman as important figures in literature and American culture.

For each of these texts, historians, and critics, Walker provides a stimulating reading. Indeed, a criticism of the critics and the historians is the main purpose of *Clio's Cowboys.* "We are trying to understand history and historians," Walker writes, "not make corrections of historical fact" (p. xiv). With that end in mind, Walker points out that Edward Everett Dale was a romantic at heart whose love affair with the West "shaped and toned his range histories" (p. xiii). So with Osgood, Pelzer, and Webb. While all these historians sought the "economic" motivations and conditions of the cattle trade and while they undoubtedly tried to be disin-

terested observers, their writings are in fact "subjective, personal, and even romantic" (p. 63). If one looks at the structure of their writing, one finds the very elements of "saga, story, and picturesque tragedy, and the implicit sense of epic" characteristic of the "literary rather than the scientific" (p. 69).

Of the primary classics like McCoy's *Historic Sketches,* Walker argues very well that they are not truth tellers at all, if by truth is meant a relation of what actually happened during a day working cattle on the range or of managing the finances of the buying and shipping. McCoy's is instead autobiography in the "heroic mode" (p. 23), a book "almost empty of hard, individualized, concrete details, but filled with generalized sketches drawn in bold . . . lines and color" (p. 23). So too with *The Prose and Poetry of the Live Stock Industry.* There is little "detailed or photographic hardness" (p. 50) in this classic historical work. Its achievement is mainly its use of the literary rhetoric and images of its period. "The men themselves, as one believes they must have existed," Walker writes, "escape the historian" (p. 23).

Indeed the main thing that worries Walker throughout his book is that we have yet to find out who the actual working cowboy and cattlemen were. Under the Stetson, who was the man? Since the historians have given us little more than types and abstractions, how do we discover the concrete facts of individual experience? How do we come to know personality? The most enjoyable quality about Walker's book—and perhaps also its main contribution—is that instead of creating new dogma it questions all the old. Clearly the result of a lifelong personal quest to understand the West (in this sense it reminds one of C. L. Sonnichsen's *From Hopalong to Hud: Thoughts on Western Fiction*), Don Walker's book will stimulate anyone seriously interested in the history and literature of the cattle trade.

Albuquerque DAVID REMLEY

PLOTTING THE GOLDEN WEST: AMERICAN LITERATURE AND THE RHETORIC OF THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL. By Stephen Fender. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1981. Pp. ix, 241. Illus., notes, bibliog., essay, index. $24.95.

AMERICANS ARE PROVERBIALLY a people on the road, though perhaps rarely in such numbers as on the 1849 road to California gold. Nor have so many since done it with pencils in hand, scribbling in journals, letters, diaries, reports, guidebooks, and travel accounts their impressions of a still unstoried West. And just as they converted blank western spaces into conventional urban grids, so they flourished tired clichés at blank pages that had been given over ostensibly to the fresh and the new. Yet Tucumcari is not Trenton, not yet; and with similar intractability, the California trail that compelled writers' energies kept slipping away from their plots.

Turned both west and east—witness to landscapes unlike anything they had known, and yet with only familiar prose strategies to hand—these literary amateurs felt stymied about which stylistic grids to impose. And so, stark facts of barometric

readings and geological catalogues consistently disrupt lyrical passages of picturesque sunsets and pastoral settings, creating what Professor Fender calls a "double style." Repeatedly, travel accounts betray a tension between alternate modes, variously characterized by Fender as the technical vs. the traditional (or the vernacular), the scientific vs. the rhetorical, the literal vs. the figurative, and the documentary vs. the fantastic.

Such a tension might in itself form little more than a quaint footnote to literary history. Except that Professor Fender wants to expand the point, to claim that this "stylistic pathology" exposes travelers' deep-seated anxieties not only about the West's imminent disappearance before the sweep of progress, but about their unsettled states as mediators between culture and nature. And even more importantly, that the experience of the forty-niners in writing down the West is only a more dramatic instancing of the experience all American writers have had. That the "double style," the text at war with itself, "the hybrid narrative is a particularly American response to anxieties about plotting."

Well, perhaps so, perhaps not. But to make that claim persuasively demands something more of an exhaustive (and comparative) study than attempted here. As it is, the book does offer a lively survey, its seven chapters nicely fractured between close textual analysis and broad cultural history. Following two opening chapters on authors the forty-niners had read, including Irving, Flint, Hall, and Frémont, the discussion turns to the forty-niners' own accounts: three central chapters are devoted to the ostensibly varied texts written by men, women, and journalists, respectively. The final chapters then take us from a persuasive case for Mark Twain's emergent "double style" once he came west, to an unconvincing case for American literature since 1849.

The reason literary history is the most demanding of forms (and the least successfully practiced) is that its dual requirements seem so mutually exclusive: a scholarly respect for awkward historical facts, yet a critical capacity for literary play. Too often, Professor Fender confuses the two, finding what he is looking for by playing with facts. And in the end, the thesis that depends upon a vague shifting of dualistic categories ends by creating rather than reading its history. The point is a fine one, to be sure, in these post-structuralist days. But to invoke the optative mood, the "perhaps" and "may" and "no doubt" as often as he does, is to render history only one fiction among contradictory others. When solid supporting evidence frequently gives way to anecdotes and irrelevant information, then uneasiness grows about the equally frequent broad historical claims. And similarly, while assorted allusions to Shakespeare, Pope, James, Brecht, Stevens, Austin, Herbert, and others may please those who would make "writerly" texts of forty-niner literature, they tend otherwise to divert attention from passages too often quoted without comment. Whether any easy binomial opposition characterizes those passages, or forty-niner texts in general, or American literature altogether is an uncertain proposition (despite its frequent formulation among current scholars). Of similar uncertainty is the assumption that Americans share a certain special cast of thought. But if either of these is to be proved, terms need

to be carefully defined. Otherwise, we will merely be imposing our dubious plots on materials that refuse such conventions, rather than revealing how others' plots wrote them into a landscape that was somehow new and fresh and perhaps even distinctly American.

Princeton University LEE CLARK MITCHELL

AMERICAN NOTES: RUDYARD KIPLING'S WEST. By Rudyard Kipling. Edited and introduction by Arrell Morgan Gibson. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1981. Pp. xviii, 173. Illus., notes, index. $9.95.

ON 28 MAY 1889, young Rudyard Kipling stepped from the deck of the *City of Peking* onto the dock at San Francisco, eager for impressions of America that he was nevertheless predisposed to view critically. American publishers, revelling in the absence of an international copyright law, were notorious at the time for pirating foreign works, and Kipling's publications had not escaped that dubious honor. Kipling's official assignment was that of traveling correspondent for the *Allahabad* (India) *Pioneer*, and the sometimes favorable, more often acid, always entertaining dispatches he wrote back to the *Pioneer* form the substance of this handsome little volume well-edited by Professor Arrell Morgan Gibson. These uncomplimentary opinions of America (ironically, they too were pirated in the United States in 1891) were ultimately published as part of *From Sea to Sea*, and as Kipling's literary reputation—once one of the greatest in the English literary world—has declined, knowledge of them has also faded. Professor Gibson has done an important service in resurrecting them for a modern audience.

Kipling's views, though always entertaining, are not particularly insightful. By the time of his arrival in America, the disgruntled Englishman abroad had become a familiar, if not exactly welcome, figure to Americans, and his litany of abuse had already picked up a formulaic quality. As we find this nearly liturgical recital in Kipling's prose, we discover that Americans drink too much, engage in nothing but the pursuit of the almighty dollar, litter their national parks (this point is fairly new at the time), speak English with an atrocious accent and have a cavalier disregard for grammar, like to make the eagle scream and to twist the lion's tail (both reprehensible practices to the true-born Englishman), and love nothing better than to convert the unwary traveler to any of a number of religious sects of unsound doctrine and bizarre observances. We also discover a less conventional (albeit much shorter) list of American virtues. Among these is *not* the landscape: Kipling is of the "once you've seen one geyser, you've seen 'em all" persuasion, and America's scenic attractions leave him unmoved. He does like American women (he was later to marry one), whom he contrasts favorably with English ones; and—an unexpected point of view from one whose present-day reputation depends almost entirely upon his raucous bearing of the white man's burden and the British raj—has nothing but respect for the American cavalry trooper, who "is not a gentleman to be trifled with."

Gibson suggests, rightly in my view, that the primary value in re-issuing *Amer-*

ican Notes today is that Kipling was a spectator of American society at the end of the frontier period. In the very next year the dramatic census was to be taken that would provide Frederick Jackson Turner with the material for his frontier thesis; the cowboy, as Kipling saw, is a living anachronism, no longer of major importance to the American West; and we also see the future prefigured in Chicago, which Kipling did not like, with its already notorious stockyards. It is a fascinating exercise to contrast Kipling's wide-eyed wonder at them with Upton Sinclair's jaundiced but only slightly later view in *The Jungle*.

Rudyard Kipling's West, as is the case with the others of Oklahoma's Western Frontier Library, is carefully edited, thoroughly annotated, and handsomely produced. It should be a welcome addition to the library of all aficionados of the American West.

University of Colorado, Boulder JAMES K. FOLSOM

AMERICAN FRONTIER TALES. By Helen Addison Howard. Missoula, Mont.: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1982. Pp. xiii, 277. Illus., references, index. $15.95 cloth; $8.95 paper.

DEATH, TOO, FOR THE-HEAVY-RUNNER. By Ben Bennett. Missoula, Mont.: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1982. Pp. vii, 170. Illus., bibliog. $14.95 cloth; $7.95 paper.

WE SEIZED OUR RIFLES. Edited by Lee Sillman. Missoula, Mont.: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1982. Pp. vii, 214. Illus. $14.95 cloth; $7.95 paper.

DESPITE DISSIMILAR TITLES, these books share not only the same publisher but a common link to Montana history. The first, *American Frontier Tales* by Helen Addison Howard, stretches this theme the most. This collection of articles begins with a selection that alleges to be "the true story of the real Hiawatha and the founding of the Great League of the Iroquois" and moves to an essay from the American Southwest that describes the role of flying saucers in Hopi mythology. Most of the selections describe events that occurred either in Montana or the surrounding region. The potential reader should note that nearly every selection in this work has been published before in either a historical journal or a book. Also, the title is a source of minor annoyance. History is man's past actuality; it is not a tale.

The second book by Ben Bennett describes the background and events that led to the Baker Massacre. This disastrous event occurred on 23 January 1870, when Col. Eugene M. Baker led a detachment of soldiers from the Second Cavalry and attacked a Piegan village camped on the Big Bend of the Marias River. The consequence of the Baker affair spelled the doom for the military in President Grant's Peace Policy, but the author fails to go beyond this standard interpretation of the event. In the chapter titled "Victory or Massacre?" Bennett safely concludes that the military engagement on the Marias River was an unfortunate incident, missing an opportunity to expand our understanding of the Baker incident.

The title of the last book was taken from a story that George Bird Grinnell wrote for *Forest and Stream.* From this beginning, Lee Sillman edited a book of short stories written by Montana authors about Montana people. Most of the stories have been printed in other publications, and a majority of the stories came from either *Forest and Stream* or Montana newspapers. Many of these stories continue to perpetuate the myth that Westerners were all anti-Indian and rough and tough. Here the editor fell short by not providing a synthesis or an analysis of the materials in order to correct these misconceptions.

Notwithstanding the faults of these books, they make contributions. They may not find their way into a college classroom, but these works will surely stimulate other people to read western history. In the long run, it may be that the non-academic reader is the most important element in present-day book publishing.

University of South Dakota RICHMOND L. CLOW

FREDERIC REMINGTON: A BIOGRAPHY. By Peggy and Harold Samuels. New York: Doubleday, 1982. Pp. x, 537. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $24.95.

FREDERIC REMINGTON (1861–1909) long ago came into his own as a significant painter and sculptor. His works form the nucleus of several major museums—e.g., the Amon Carter Museum of Western Art in Fort Worth, the Gilcrease Institute in Tulsa—and his name is a commonplace in histories of American art. Slower to develop has been his reputation as an author; however, since 1972, four separate studies—including Fred Erisman's *Frederic Remington* (1975), Ben Merchant Vorpahl's *Frederic Remington and the West* (1978), and Peggy and Harold Samuels' *Collected Writings of Frederic Remington* (1979)—have called attention to his writings, so that Remington's place in American cultural history seems secure.

The most recent study to appear, the Samuels' *Frederic Remington: A Biography,* adds less than it might to our understanding of Remington the author-artist. This exhaustively researched work, following its subject's life from the origins of his parents to the aftermath of his death, will provide for the casual reader all the information that one may care to have, for its depth of factual detail is impressive. For the professional scholar, however, it will prove less satisfying. Despite the hundreds of details that the book provides concerning Remington the historical figure, Remington the person remains somehow elusive.

As biography, the Samuels' work is traditional in every way—its greatest strength and its greatest weakness. The book opens with an episode of 1908, as Remington burns sixteen paintings done for *Collier's* and other periodicals. After this dramatic start, which to the authors dramatizes Remington's philosophical transition from illustrator to artist, the book flashes back to the marriage of his parents and proceeds chronologically thereafter. Along the way it speaks of the familiar (Remington's travels in 1888 with the 10th Cavalry; his disillusionment over the Spanish-American War; his growing sophistication as painter and sculptor), but deals also with the unfamiliar: the circumstances of his supposed suicide in 1888;

his problems as farmer-rancher in Kansas; the frictions of his marriage to Eva Caten; or his frustrating negotiations over a monumental bronze for a Philadelphia park.

The Remington who emerges is contradictory. Obese and a heavy drinker (at close to three hundred pounds in weight, he considered a quart of whisky a day "moderate" consumption), he was a hard-nosed businessman sensitive to presumed slights and keenly conscious of the prices brought by his work. At times gregarious and warmly generous, he could be petty and cruel; his marriage was childless and often cheerless, aggravated by his wife's inability to understand his art and his sporadic womanizing. A pragmatist as well as an idealist, he self-consciously publicized his role as spokesman for the Old West, even as he strove to elevate his work from simple historical record to Impressionistic art.

It is in its dealings with these contradictions that the biography falls short. Giving an excellent surface picture of its complex subject, it fails to come to grips with the depth of Remington's tightly interrelated life—the degree, for example, to which his writing complemented his pictorial and plastic works, or the ways in which the artist, the businessman, the historian, and the Romantic blended to form Frederic Remington, the person. The Samuels' *Frederic Remington* is a good work; of that there is little question. But the very wealth of its information accentuates the poverty of its thought. It is a good book, but, in its failure to explore the implications of its materials, it does not live up to its potential of becoming an important one.

Texas Christian University FRED ERISMAN

ELLIOTT COUES: NATURALIST AND FRONTIER HISTORIAN. By Paul Russell Cutright and Michael J. Brodhead. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1981. Pp. xv, 509. Illus., notes, index, bibliog., appendixes. $28.50.

ELLIOTT COUES: NATURALIST AND FRONTIER HISTORIAN is a biography of a diverse and complex American scientist who simultaneously carried on careers in medicine and natural science. In addition to serving as an Army surgeon, Coues became internationally known as an ornithologist. If this were not varied enough, Coues also distinguished himself as a historical editor and even dabbled in the occult. It would follow, therefore, that an interesting and substantive biography of Coues would await the reader. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

The first half of the volume is a dry narrative that follows Coues, the Army surgeon, through a never-ending succession of post assignments. If Coues must have felt exhausted from his many travels as a military surgeon, his condition could only be matched by the fatigue that the reader experiences as a result of these pages. This part of the biography touches lightly on the scientific contributions of Coues during his military career. The authors seem much more eager to tell their readers that Coues liked to play poker, disliked Mexican-Americans, and felt guilty about his participation in the campaigns against the Apaches in the Southwest.

By comparison, the last half of the volume is significant because it contains material more appropriate to the biography of an American scientist. In these later chapters, the authors concentrate much more on Coues's scientific and historical writing. A good chapter is devoted to Coues's role in the founding of the American Ornithologists' Union and the subsequent publication of the *A.O.U. Code of Nomenclature* and the *Check-List of North American Birds*, followed by a very orderly discussion of Coues's career in historical editing. These latter chapters also have merit because of their attempt, though weak, to link Coues's career with that of the larger scientific community. For example, the authors see the founding of the A.O.U. as part of the "nationalization, professionalization and specialization . . ." (p. 273) that took place in other professions in the late nineteenth century.

Regrettably, even in these more substantial chapters this biography has serious flaws. A case in point is the impression that Coues's interest in spiritualism and the occult was contradictory to his scientific concerns and, at times, was an embarrassment to him. Here, if the authors had considered these interests within a larger perspective, they soon would have realized that attention to spiritualism was quite common in the scientific community during this period. No less a scientist than William James, a contemporary of Coues, was instrumental in the founding of the American Society for Psychical Research. This is just one example of how this biography would have more scholarly merit if it had viewed Coues's life as an extension of the prevalent themes in the scientific community of which he was a part.

University of Oklahoma JEROME O. STEFFEN

HE WAS SINGIN' THIS SONG. By Jim Bob Tinsley. Forewords by Gene Autry and S. Omar Barker. Orlando: University Presses of Florida, 1981. Pp. xiv, 255. Illus., notes, index. $30.00.

BETWEEN THE CIVIL WAR and World War I, incipient folklorists in the United States became curious about their cultures. The cowboy's life, particularly his music, was one of the first areas investigated and, to some extent, misrepresented. Even from the first publications of cowboy songs, including those in nineteenth-century newspapers as well as those in the very popular books by John Lomax and the less popular ones by Jack Thorp, texts were whitewashed. Tunes, when given, were altered or accompanied by inappropriate piano arrangements. (The same result occurred when well-meaning Northerners published slave songs, unwittingly with phrasing and harmonies to make them sound like cultivated parlor music.)

More recently, scholars and collectors have protested this increasingly sentimentalized picture of the cowboy's life and songs. Most writers now, even while offering expurgated texts, acknowledge the expurgation. Most know, even while offering guitar accompaniments, that cowboys did not play guitars on horseback. At the same time, writers recognize the process of continuous change inherent

in any kind of folk music. Thus, they accept as equally valid cowboy music the commercialized songs of the radio cowboy, the late nineteenth-century songs about the cowboy as folk hero, and what we now know must have been music in the manner of field hollers actually sung around cows. In an effort to make sociological sense out of this jumble, Katie Lee, in *Ten Thousand Goddam Cows*, has delineated five periods of cowboy songs. Other writers have gone so far as to take sides, the "realistic" cowboy versus the "romanticized" cowboy.

Jim Bob Tinsley, wisely, does not directly approach this debate. He does, however, offer us interspersed examples of old and new cowboy songs, omitting only those he terms "Hollywood" songs. The impetus for *He Was Singin' This Song* was Gene Autry's request during the 1940s for background material on songs he was performing. Tinsley, a singer in his own right as well as a cowboy, a high school English teacher, and an avid outdoorsman, has collected his notes on forty-eight songs. Each, presented in a version transcribed by Elizabeth Orth from Tinsley's singing, is given guitar or accordion chords and followed by a discussion with references and illustrations. There are nearly three hundred fine photographs, maps, and sketches, most dating from the 1880s to World War I. The discussions comprise explanations likely to benefit the reader on subjects and vocabulary mentioned in the songs or on authors and cowboy singers. Texts are traced and authors named when possible. (Texts are, Tinsley admits, expurgated.) As is typical, little is written about the tunes. The chosen songs, arranged by subjects, are as ubiquitous as "O bury me not on the lone prairie" or as rarely printed as "Cowboy Jack."

Although most of the forty-eight songs can be found after some searching in other attainable sources, some are valuable variants. More important, the illustrations are more numerous and more clearly reproduced than in other sources, and quite aptly chosen. The prose is informative and closely documented. And, as one might expect, New Mexico and the Southwest are frequently mentioned. This beautifully produced and printed book would well augment anyone's collection of cowboy songs.

University of New Mexico SUSAN PATRICK

BOOM TOWN NEWSPAPERS: JOURNALISM ON THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN MINING FRONTIER, 1859–1881. By David Fridtjof Halaas. Foreword by Ralph Looney. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1981. Pp. xvii, 146. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $14.95.

"THE MINING [CAMP] PRESS played an active role in civic and cultural affairs and worked tirelessly to instill a sense of pride, community, and purpose into a random and highly diverse population" (p. 100). Indeed it did! In this modest little volume, David Halaas has deftly captured not only the exuberant spirit of the mining camp newspapers, but also the significant contributions made by these endeavors to the Americanization of the wild, wild West. In boom towns of the Rocky Mountain West, civic-minded residents looked forward to the time when they could point

with pride to evidence in their midst of three basic elements of civilized society—a church, a school, and a newspaper. Analyzing the latter of these cultural influences, the author has provided a thoughtful synthesis of efforts editors of these newspapers made to define and publicize the issues of vital importance to the growth of their communities.

Following an opening chapter devoted to general comments on the unique characteristics of mining camp journalism, Halaas develops his discussion with several case studies of the trials and tribulations of representative newspapers and with commentary on the financial obstacles editors encountered in the ongoing struggle to make ends meet. Concluding chapters are concerned with an analysis of the apparent contradictions exhibited in many editorial columns when writers tried to balance observations on the violent aspects of life on a raw frontier with typical chamber of commerce rhetoric lauding community traits that would presumably attract the investment capital and influx of population essential to the growth and permanence of the mining camp.

Halaas writes with a sprightly style that skillfully guides the reader through the topical structure of his book. This reviewer regretted, however, the author's decision to end his study of Colorado newspapers with the coming of statehood in 1876. The silver rush of the late 1870s produced a number of fascinating newspapers and colorful editors. Probably every western history buff will have his favorite in this cast of characters, but any development of this topic, in my view, seems remiss without a tip of the hat to David Day and his flamboyant style displayed in the Ouray (Colorado) *Solid Muldoon.*

Certainly mining camp newspapers are excellent sources for students of the history of the American West to explore many facets of the social history of that vast region. Although not stating this as his objective, David Halaas has opened avenues for continued exploration in depth of the themes that he has touched upon only in passing. Excellent selection of illustrations, scholarly concern for appropriate footnoting, and an extensive bibliography add to the overall usefulness of this book.

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs NORMAN J. BENDER

SKY PIONEERING: ARIZONA IN AVIATION HISTORY. By Ruth M. Reinhold. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1982. Pp. xiv, 232. Illus., bibliog., index. $19.95 cloth; $10.95 paper.

RUTH M. REINHOLD COMPLETED flying lessons at Phoenix's Sky Harbor Airport in the 1930s and recorded some 20,000 hours of flight time prior to retirement as an active pilot in 1972. She taught students, demonstrated and sold airplanes, and engaged in charter and executive flying from coast to coast and from Mexico to Canada. She also served as a member of the Phoenix Aviation Advisory Board, the Arizona Department of Aeronautics Board, and the Arizona Department of Transportation Board. After having played an active role in aviation for nearly four decades, Reinhold decided to write a history of flying. The result of that

effort is *Sky Pioneering: Arizona in Aviation History,* a book that delineates, often in a personal manner, the evolution of flight in the Southwest.

Emphasis is on the history of flight in Arizona prior to World War II. The first two chapters trace lighter-than-air flight and the early but generally unsuccessful efforts to make use of airplanes in commercial roles prior to World War I. Some attention is given to the exploits of Didier Masson, Gustavo Salinas, and others in behalf of one faction or the other in the revolutionary movements that swept across Mexico in the second decade of the twentieth century. Following the armistice in Europe in 1918, a surge of aviation activities in Arizona, as elsewhere, reflected the widely held conviction that the air age had arrived. Unfortunately, numerous commercial schemes to manufacture airplanes and operate passenger carrying lines were doomed to failure because of the absence of public support for aviation at the time.

The long-awaited aviation boom finally seemed a reality in 1927, when the implementation of the Air Commerce Act, the Kelly Act (authorizing payments to private carriers of air mail), and Charles A. Lindbergh's epic transatlantic flight spurred interest in general and commercial aviation. Promising developments were undermined by the depression that commenced in 1929.

Early carriers, including Aero Corporation of California, Standard Air Lines, Western Air Express, Transcontinental Air Transport and Maddux Air Lines, experienced failures, reorganizations, and consolidations. Emerging from the pioneering efforts of the twenties was Transcontinental and Western Air. American Airways, founded in 1930, became in mid-decade American Airlines. That company, along with Trans World Airways (a new name for Transcontinental and Western Air) utilized Donald Douglas's DC-2 and DC-3, plus advanced designs from other manufacturers, to give Arizona residents convenient connections to an expanding system of national and international routes.

Sky Pioneering is without citations to sources, but the author does provide a bibliography for readers who may want to pursue research in some aspect of Arizona's aviation history. In addition to books, articles, and newspapers, Reinhold obtained information from more than 150 individuals, either the result of interviews or from correspondence. Many of the interviewees were important contributors to the evolution of flight in the Southwest. The book contains more than forty illustrations, including two maps that assist the reader in following the thrust of aviation in communities throughout the state.

University of Colorado, Boulder LEE SCAMEHORN

CHAINS OF COMMAND: ARIZONA AND THE ARMY, 1856–1875. By Constance Wynn Altshuler. Tucson: Arizona Historical Society, 1981. Pp. xiv, 280. Illus., notes, index. $19.00 cloth; $15.00 paper.

WHEN THE U.S. ARMY occupied the Gadsden Purchase in 1856, it inherited problems that had plagued Spaniards and Mexicans for the better part of a century and a half. Like their predecessors, American military officers in Arizona con-

fronted a fierce, cunning, and implacable enemy in an isolated desert environment. With varying degrees of competence, a succession of commanders wrestled with uncertain logistics, rugged terrain, frightened civilians, and vacillating government policy in their efforts to end the Apache menace.

In *Chains of Command,* Constance Altshuler examines "how the army functioned in Arizona from 1856 to 1875, and under what conditions" (p. x). So simple a statement of purpose belies the complexity of her task. In fact, this administrative history of the army in Arizona is on many counts a major accomplishment. The focus is clear and the time frame manageable. The study concentrates on the activities of division, department, and district commanders, and concludes at the end of Brig. Gen. George Crook's first tour of duty. Before leaving Arizona in 1875, Crook had succeeded at least in gathering the Indians onto reservations. "Later troubles," Altshuler perceptively notes, "arose from a new set of causes, and later commanders dealt with entirely different situations" (p. x). To assess success or failure, she asks how clearly a commander perceived his mission and how effectively he utilized the resources at his disposal.

The book is not for the casual reader. Altshuler describes in intricate detail shifts in administrative boundaries, as well as strategy, personnel, and field operations. An appendix contains biographical information on no less than 107 officers who served in Arizona. Here and elsewhere, Altshuler's respect for competence and energy is forcefully expressed, as is her disdain for incompetence, ineptitude, or just plain laziness. Her conclusions are based upon extensive research into military records and contemporary newspapers. There is no bibliography, however, and scarcely a handful of secondary references appear in the footnotes. Eight excellent maps by Don Bufkin, delineating Arizona's military boundaries, add immeasurably to the text.

Although *Chains of Command* is not easy reading, that should not detract from Altshuler's significant achievement. She has composed an indispensable reference work. It belongs on the bookshelf of every serious student of the military in the Southwest.

University of Arizona BRUCE J. DINGES

TODAY'S IMMIGRANTS, THEIR STORIES: A NEW LOOK AT THE NEWEST AMERICANS. By Thomas Kessner and Betty Boyd Caroli. New York: Oxford University Press, 1981. Pp. ix, 317. Illus., appendixes, bibliog. $16.95.

THIS WORK FOCUSES UPON recent immigrant populations in the major U.S. receiving center—New York City. Coverage is comprehensive if not exhaustive, as chapters are devoted to Indochinese boat people, Peruvians, Koreans, Irish, Russian Jews, West Indians, Italians, Greeks, Hondurans, and the generic undocumented alien.

Of particular significance is the book's focus upon a migration pattern that postdates the modifications in 1965 of U.S. immigration legislation. It attempts to remove the issues from the front page of the newspaper and the Congressional

hearing room and subject them to at least some semblance of scholarly consideration. In this regard the work is quite provocative without being definitive.

True to its title, the book allows the immigrants to occupy centerstage. The first-person narrative seldom fails to rivet the reader's attention. Without any systematic attempt certain themes recur, such as the immigrants' ambivalence regarding the host society and the interplay between the determination to engage in any kind of employment in order to gain a foothold and an all-consuming desire to become upwardly mobile as quickly as possible. One fascinating theme is the difference between the new arrivals and the older, established population of the same ethnic group. The chapters on Chinese and Italians are particularly rich with "inter-cohort" conflict. Some of the triumphs and tragedies are unforgettable, such as the case of the seventeen-year-old Vietnamese girl who survived the escape-by-boat ordeal only to be kidnapped, raped, and murdered in Queens by a deranged Vietnam veteran.

The strength of the personal narratives notwithstanding, *Today's Immigrants* has some major flaws. Interspersed throughout the argument there are a running synopsis of background social history as it pertains to each group and a resumé of relevant American immigration history. The criteria vary from chapter to chapter, and at times one questions the rationale for inclusion at all. Thus, while Italians and Greeks are discussed without any reference to ancient Mediterranean civilization, in the chapter on Peru considerable space is devoted to simplistic treatment of the pre-Columbian Inca empire. At times the conclusions strike this reader as at best controversial, if not downright wrongheaded. The problem is that the argument is advanced with statistics and even direct quotes but without any citations. Consequently, the "evidence" fails to transcend the level of mere assertion. This approach seriously limits the utility of the book for the serious student of migration. Unfortunately, then, *Today's Immigrants* fails to realize its full potential.

University of Nevada WILLIAM A. DOUGLASS

THE NORTH FRONTIER OF NEW SPAIN. By Peter Gerhard. Princeton, N.J. Princeton University Press, 1982. Pp. xiv, 454. Illus., maps, tables, glossary, notes, bibliog., index. $60.00.

THE NORTH FRONTIER IS THE third and last of a trilogy on New Spain, the first two of which were historical geographies. This latest study is based on appropriate documentation, both manuscript and printed, and is replete with the paraphernalia of scholarship with overtones of demographic treatment. As close as this book approaches that "in" phase of current research, it is not a demographic exercise, nor does it pretend to be. At best the Gerhard book is a longitudinal easement to the study of church and state in their interaction as governmental entities of Spanish control and expansion in Mexico. It will be consulted in research libraries, but its extremely high price will make it beyond acquisition by most academicians.

It is hard to determine the audience for this book, though the title might initially interest Borderlands scholars. However, the contents are only very marginally concerned with the extreme northern frontier, and about such areas the author blandly states that the bibliography of California, New Mexico, and Texas is disproportionally great compared to their colonial period importance and therefore avoids the sort of perceptive analysis he employs elsewhere. Concentration is on Nueva Galicia and Nueva Vizcaya, treatment of which jurisdictions comprise two-thirds of the text. Much attention is given to "guesstimates" of native population at the time of initial European contact. Subsequent rapid decline of Indian population is ascribed variously to (1) excesses of the early conquistadores, particularly Nuño Beltrán de Guzmán; (2) introduction of new diseases, at times reaching plague proportions; (3) almost insatiable labor demands of Spanish lay and clerical colonists; (4) forced and voluntary relocation of natives; and (5) long-range effects of miscegenation.

Gerhard's study lacks the good narrative quality of his early efforts and leaves the reader seeking a theme or focus for a book that is well printed, almost without typographical errors, and accompanied by dozens of maps for geographical clarification. Embedded within the separate sections is much useful information, but the format is not conducive to sustained reading. Each subjurisdiction is broken down into segments of unequal length for specific treatment of encomiendas, government, church, population and settlements, and sources of materials brought to bear or appropriate for further study. Attempts are made to identify the linguistic affiliation of Indian groups treated.

As for New Mexico, a scant nine pages of text do not shed any new light, but do get the author into trouble. Jicarilla becomes Jicarillo; Rio Abajo is defined as the area below El Paso, some 250 miles south of the real division between Rio Arriba and Rio Abajo; the Estancia Valley becomes the Salinas; and no mention is made of either Oakah Jones's *Pueblo Indians and Spanish Conquest* or Jack Forbes's *Apache, Navaho and Spaniard*, both essential to the author's research methodology.

St. Mary's University DONALD C. CUTTER

SOUTHWESTERN AGRICULTURE: PRE-COLUMBIAN TO MODERN. Edited by Henry C. Dethloff and Irvin M. May, Jr. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1982. Pp. ix, 307. Tables, notes, index. $23.75.

GEOMETRIC POPULATION GROWTH, dramatic changes in technology, urban sprawl, pressing environmental issues, and a host of other questions force civilization to reconsider its relationship to the land. Given the current urban intellectual traditions and practices, society is ill-equipped to meet the challenges of farming regions. In order that we, as a people, can better prepare ourselves for the battle against world hunger we must consider agriculture from the earliest to the present. Because Dethloff and May's *Southwestern Agriculture: Pre-Columbian to Modern*

provides a useful basis for advancing the public's understanding of a region's agriculture, the book should be read and pondered.

The twenty-six contributors to the book come from a wide variety of backgrounds—scholars and practitioners—and represent an outstanding gallery of top-notch experts with many years of dedicated work. *Southwestern Agriculture* is a serious work dealing with a serious question.

Despite the quality of the contributors and the fine editing, the book does not have a clear theme that unites the edition, and the articles vary significantly in quality. For example, Charles C. Colley's article on Carl Hayden attempts too much and results in presenting too little solid information; whereas, James L. Forsythe's presentation of Clinton P. Anderson limits the study to the period of Anderson's time as Secretary of Agriculture, and thus more detail is presented with a more complete statement.

Three works need to be singled out: Richard W. Etulain's "Farmers in Southwestern Fiction" is successful at presenting the spirit and soul of folks on the land. Etulain goes beyond their "pocketbooks" to find the people. Garry L. Nall's "The Cattle-Feeding Industry of the Texas High Plains" clearly lets the reader know how important people are in bringing about major changes. On the Plains, feed and cattle were raised side by side and shipped out until the right men were able to unite the feed and cattle for a local commercial feedlot industry. The feeders dramatically changed the High Plains economy. Leonard J. Arrington's "New Deal Programs and Southwestern Agriculture" is a treasure chest of information. Seldom is a reader treated to so much concise and useful information as Arrington provides.

Southwestern Agriculture offers the reader a wide variety of subjects: Mimbres culture, raising chile peppers, Mexican–United States cattle industry (the livestock industry is joined as one), experiment stations, extension work, rice production, and cotton seed processing to name a few subjects. All combine to make this book well worth reading.

Yampa, Colorado PAUL BONNIFIELD

SANTA FE AND TAOS: THE WRITER'S ERA, 1916–1941. By Marta Weigle and Kyle Fiore. Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 1982. Pp. x, 229. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $15.95.

MARTA WEIGLE AND KYLE FIORE have produced the first full-length study of the "other" creative members of the well-known Santa Fe–Taos art colony that flourished in the early decades of the twentieth century. While the list of books dealing with individual painters or the Santa Fe or Taos "groups" has grown steadily in recent years, the writers, playwrights, and poets who formed a complementary and contemporaneous group to the colonies of painters in the area have received much less recognition. Thus the book is a welcome addition to the literature concerning the Santa Fe–Taos center during its formative and most active period.

In the preface the authors assert that the book is "more an exhibition catalogue than a strict literary or social history," and note that their approach is patterned

after Van Deren Coke's work in 1963 on the artists of the region, *Taos and Santa Fe: The Artist's Environment, 1882–1942*. As such the book is divided into four parts. The first, entitled "A Chronicle," outlines the arrival of various authors, their literary efforts, and their social and civic activities in the towns during the somewhat distinct periods of 1916–20, the 1920s, 1930–35, and 1936–41. The last three divisions of the book represent the "exhibition" that the authors are "cataloguing." The second section consists of a selection of quotations from the works of the writers of the region, including two long pieces each on Santa Fe and Taos. Next follows a selection of reproductions of actual publications, most locally printed in Taos or Santa Fe, ranging from playbills and menus to articles in regionally produced magazines. The book concludes with "A Dictionary of New Mexico Writers," compiled from approximately five sources of the 1930s and including brief biographical and literary information on authors identified as New Mexico writers during the 1930s, followed by a bibliographic note and index.

The book has much to recommend it. It is enjoyable reading and is liberally illustrated with interesting period paintings and photographs. The Bibliographic Note, and even more particularly the specific reference notes, provide an excellent guide to a myriad of sources, both original and recently published, concerning the various subjects covered.

However, the book also has some important weaknesses. First, it lacks a substantial critical analysis of the writers' achievements either as individuals or as a group. Secondly, while the authors delineate the importance to the writers of the unique New Mexico environment, they fail to define specifically the writers as a group—were they regionalists? They further fail to clarify the place of the Santa Fe–Taos writers in the national literary milieu of the period. The importance of these questions is brought to mind by the authors themselves when they declare (on p. 44) that "by the mid-30's something was clearly 'wrong' with Santa Fe in print and life," and a growing number of writers suspected "that serious and longlasting critical acclaim was eluding most of them." Although the statement that the book is not intended to be a "strict literary history" may explain these omissions, it is still unfortunate that the first full-length treatment of the Santa Fe–Taos authors lacks this critical approach.

Despite the room left for a more analytical study of the authors of the region, *Santa Fe and Taos: The Writer's Era, 1916–1941*, with its emphasis on the literary half of those well-known art colonies, is a worthwhile contribution to a fuller understanding and appreciation of the Santa Fe–Taos cultural center.

Auburn, Alabama KAY A. REEVE

WESTWARD IN EDEN: THE PUBLIC LANDS AND CONSERVATION MOVEMENT. By William K. Wyant. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982. Pp. xiii, 536. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $24.50.

PURPORTEDLY THIS VOLUME is a comprehensive history of the acquisition and use of public lands in the United States. To a point this objective is fulfilled, but the

presentation is seriously marred by the author's anecdotal style and failure to investigate undergirding historical and philosophical premises on the subject.

The book has sixteen chapters. The first six encompass the acquisition of the public domain, the passage of laws for administering or alienating it, and the role of Congress and various federal agencies in managing it. Chapter four ("The Fall of Albert B. Fall") summarizes the Teapot Dome scandal, though the author acknowledges there are more "detailed and documented" accounts. The next six chapters consider the exploitation of specific resources, including precious and base minerals, oil, coal, natural gas, timber, and grasslands. The final four chapters address particular concerns such as land use planning (with water projects along the Colorado River and its tributaries and energy production in the "Four Corners" region receiving special attention), the conservation movement, and the disposition of the public domain in Alaska.

In an epilogue Wyant presents "solutions" to the problems he has chronicled. He suggests creating "an atmosphere in which the federal writ is obeyed," ensuring that "federal land managers ought to be well paid and generously deployed in the field," developing "greater respect for the facts about the public lands and less sensitivity to the political and economic demands . . . made upon the lands," and taking care that "decisions about the public lands . . . are not so often made hastily. . . ."

Wyant's chief contribution is his coverage of the debate over the use of public lands in the 1960s and 1970s. In effect he brings the history of the subject up to date. His bibliography in this respect serves as a guide to major federal reports and publications for this period. The book would have had greater impact had Wyant chosen to concentrate only on this aspect of the topic. The historical background he provides is selective, chronologically chaotic, and, as he again points out, depends heavily on classics in the field such as Paul Gates's *History of Public Land Law Development*. Even readers with only a casual interest in public land history before 1960 would be better off consulting the works of Gates, Benjamin Hibbard, Roy Robbins, Vernon Carstensen, and Marion Clawson, all of whom are mentioned in the bibliography, though Clawson and Burnell Held's *The Federal Lands: Their Use and Management* is missing. The somewhat chatty style of the writing may disturb some readers, as when highly placed persons in Washington, D.C., confide truthfully in the author over coffee tables in their offices (p. 115) or others get their "walking papers," after their party has been voted out of office (p. 121). Finally, it is distressing to find American Indians still getting short shrift; in a book on public land use the agricultural efforts of the Indians of eastern and southwestern North America should not be glossed over with stereotypical phrases (p. 11) as, "The country in its springtime was a domain of incredible richness tenanted in human terms only by the outnumbered and wandering Indian tribes. . . ."

New Mexico Highlands University MICHAEL L. OLSEN

THE KIT CARSON CAMPAIGN: THE LAST GREAT NAVAJO WAR. By Clifford E. Trafzer. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1982. Pp. xviii, 277. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $14.95.

A NEW ACCOUNT OF THE United States Army's operations against the Navajo Indians in 1863–64, told from white and Indian viewpoints, should be worth a book. Lawrence Kelly succeeded so well with a similar work (*Navajo Roundup*, 1970) that parts of it were pirated. We regret that the late Frank McNitt never capped off his *Navajo Wars* (1972) with a study of Carson's campaign. It ends in 1860. Trafzer's book, however, does not live up to expectation.

An introductory chapter, "The Navajos Before Kit," is a neat summation of secondary and well-known primary material in fifty closeknit pages. We may argue with Trafzer's interpretations when he says Indian captives were chattel sold "on the auction block" (p. 36) by traders to "New Mexican hacendados" who made their slaves' lives "hell" (pp. 21–22). Or when he accuses Benjamin L. E. Bonneville of cheating the Navajos out of land in a non-existent reservation (p. 43). We suspect the author is in trouble when he repeats the long-discredited story of E. R. S. Canby and Henry Hopkins Sibley being brothers-in-law (pp. 47, 53).

Chapter 2 is a summary of events of the Civil War in New Mexico, including the repulse of the Texan invasion and Carson's pacification of the Mescalero Apaches. It starts with a deprecatory evaluation of Kit Carson, who was by all contemporary accounts one of the most likeable in the surly lot of mountain men. Then Trafzer introduces James H. Carleton who, if not likeable, deserves better than his description as "an unscrupulous, . . . selfish man, whose bearing radiated . . . [a] tyrannical personality" (p. 58). All this, apparently, from the looks of Carleton in three photographs. There are six pictures of Carson, presumably non-tyrannical.

The author then tells in four chapters the story of Col. Christopher Carson, Brig. Gen. Carleton, and the New Mexico and California Volunteers in their campaign against the long-hostile Navajo tribe of northwestern New Mexico Territory. Trafzer evokes the ruggedness of the high desert, the wintry weather, and the stoicism of durable Navajo warriors. His picture of the *Diné*, the Navajo people, during a murderous war and the Long Walk, is calculated to arouse our sympathy. He handles the crucial business of military operations, however, with less success. Although he resided on the Navajo reservation and his descriptions of scenery are quite good, he fails to convey any coordinated sense of movement. We are left with little understanding of what the soldiers or Indians did or exactly where and when. At last, after Carson destroyed their food supplies and invaded Canyon de Chelly, nearly nine thousand Navajos surrendered, and the army herded them to Fort Sumner on the Pecos River.

Trafzer believes that oral traditions can illuminate the Indian side of "the last great Navajo war." These stories, handed down through several generations, were repeated by present-day Navajos to Ruth Roessel and the author in the 1970s. At

best, they confirm the contemporary record, but they add nothing new. Such "oral history" is interesting, but it is not history.

The balance of the book deals with desultory raids by unsurrendered Navajos, the final roundup of leaders, especially Manuelito, and the demise of Carleton's Bosque Redondo experiment. Carson is scarcely mentioned again, except in a curious postmortem that brands him a racist and a villain (pp. 235–38). Not only are these two final chapters peripheral to the book's subject, but they are the least satisfactory. Space does not permit detailed refutation of Trafzer's arguments. Suffice it to say he believes the *Diné* were noble, peaceful, innocent primitives who should have been allowed to roam the southern Colorado Plateau; and that, without exception, every effort of the federal government and citizens of New Mexico (including western Pueblo Indians) to restrict Navajo actions was criminal and morally wrong.

Northern Arizona University ANDREW WALLACE

LOUIS FELSENTHAL: CITIZEN-SOLDIER OF TERRITORIAL NEW MEXICO. By Jacqueline Dorgan Meketa. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982. Published in cooperation with the Historical Society of New Mexico. Pp. xvi, 152. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $15.95 cloth; $8.95 paper.

THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS of the ordinary as well as the mighty should be recorded. Jacqueline Dorgan Meketa pays heed to this historical imperative in her *Louis Felsenthal: Citizen-Soldier of Territorial New Mexico*. This reviewer, an avid student of New Mexico history, felt quite embarrassed when he was asked to review Meketa's book; he had never heard of Felsenthal. However, Meketa's comments in her preface, where she characterized herself as a historian-detective in her efforts to cull information about a man of "middling status," such as Felsenthal, reassured the reviewer that the subject of this biography was not one of New Mexico's historical elites.

Notwithstanding Felsenthal's relative obscurity, he does make an enticing biographical subject for New Mexico. He was a German-Jewish immigrant. He arrived in New Mexico shortly after Kearny's conquest. He was well acquainted with some of the more prominent Jewish merchants in Santa Fe. He served as a captain of the First Regiment of New Mexico Volunteers and fought against the Confederates at Valverde. He was in charge of military patrols along the Santa Fe Trail during the sixties. He served as a clerk in the territorial House of Representatives where his literary and bilingual skills made him a valuable facilitator. Indeed, Felsenthal was a most active historical participant during his forty years in New Mexico.

Meketa is a fine writer, but there are problems in writing about a historical figure as obscure as Felsenthal. Records left by the diminutive bachelor are scanty; letters written by Felsenthal while a soldier comprise some of the more valuable primary sources used to reconstruct his life. Official documents also were helpful as were relevant secondary sources. But, because of the dearth of personal records,

Meketa is compelled to surmise about Felsenthal's role in a number of historical episodes in which he was involved. Conclusions about his motives and whereabouts consequently are often based on mere speculation.

Meketa's book is the second publication in a joint effort by the Historical Society of New Mexico and the University of New Mexico Press. The biography is particularly appropriate because Felsenthal was one of the charter members of the first Historical Society of New Mexico, which was organized in 1859. It is a most attractive volume with useful photographs and maps. Its author also should be commended for her skillful integration of Felsenthal's varied career with the turbulent times in which he lived.

University of Northern Colorado ROBERT W. LARSON

VANGUARD OF EXPANSION: ARMY ENGINEERS IN THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI WEST, 1819–1879. By Frank N. Schubert. Washington, D.C.: Department of the Army, Office of the Chief of Engineers, Historical Division, 1980. Pp. xii, 160. Illus., notes, index. $4.50 paper.

OFFICERS IN THE ARMY CORPS OF TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS played a major role in exploring, mapping, surveying, and publicizing the trans-Mississippi West during the years of nineteenth-century expansion and settlement. Americans devoured their lavishly illustrated reports and large, accurate maps. Pioneers, hungry for reliable information about emigration routes and camping places, used published reports of the Corps as trail guide books and often headed west along routes that army topographers had surveyed and laid out.

This concise study explains and analyzes the significant contribution army topographers made in providing a systematic investigation of the American West. Schubert's purpose in writing the book was not to produce a definitive treatment of the Corps of Engineers—a task that William Goetzmann ably undertook in his *Army Exploration in the American West, 1803–1863*—but rather to produce a concise, readable, yet scholarly narrative of the nineteenth-century contributions of the Corps to American development. He has succeeded on all counts.

Schubert's major thesis is that because the Corps of Topographical Engineers suffered from a weak institutional development, its importance rests upon the achievements of individual officers rather than upon the Corps as a bureaucratic entity. Therefore, this book is not so much an institutional history as it is a record of the accomplishments and contributions of individual officers. The book is subdivided into eight chapters that stress the careers of well-known topographers such as Stephen H. Long, John J. Abert, John C. Frémont, William H. Emory, and Gouverneur K. Warren. Leaders of the Pacific Railroad Surveys such as John W. Gunnison, Amiel W. Whipple, and Isaac Stevens also loom large in the study.

Topographical Engineers made their greatest contribution in interpreting the American West in the years between the end of the War of 1812 and the closing of the Civil War. Their importance in interpreting the American West declined in the years following the Civil War as civilian scientists gradually replaced West

Point-trained army topographers on scientific expeditions and as university-trained specialists replaced generalists in American scientific circles. Civilian scientists came to dominate the great surveys in the 1860s and 1870s. The prestigious National Academy of Sciences—an organization representing the interests of civilian scientists—further undercut the predominance of the Corps by recommending the consolidation of the surveys under civilian leadership. Congressional funding for the new United States Geological Survey in 1879 cast the final blow. As Schubert concludes: the "era of engineer explorer was over."

Schubert's study demonstrates that surveys conducted under sponsorship of the Corps still provide a fertile field for historical investigation. In mining archival sources he has brought considerable new material to light. Of special interest is the 1853 journal of German botanist Frederick Kreutzfeldt. As a survivor of John C. Frémont's disaster of 1848–49 in the mountains of Southern Colorado, Kreutzfeldt was a veteran of western exploration when he joined Lt. John Gunnison's ill-fated survey of the 38th parallel central railroad route. Kreutzfeldt's pithy observations about Gunnison's style of leadership and his handling of Indian affairs provide an important insight into the events that transpired in the days immediately prior to Kreutzfeldt's and Gunnison's murder at the hands of Pavant Indians in central Utah in October 1853.

The last chapter entitled "The Great Surveys and the End of an Era" is by far the weakest in the book. This is due in large measure to the self-imposed limitations of the book. Since two of the four great surveys—those by John Wesley Powell and Ferdinand Hayden—were not conducted under the auspices of the Corps of Topographical Engineers but rather under the United States Geological Survey, Schubert allocates less than a paragraph to each of them.

The numerous maps and illustrations found throughout the book are well chosen. Drawn from manuscript sources and published government documents, they are representative of the significant body of documentary art produced by civilian and army artists and illustrators for publication in the official reports. These vivid images shaped American thinking about the western frontier and are important documents in their own right. Schubert could have enhanced the usefulness of his study had he acknowledged in his picture credits contributions of these artists and illustrators.

Vanguard of Expansion is a concise, scholarly, well-written addition to the history of army exploration in the trans-Mississippi West.

Cameron University DAVID H. MILLER

LATIN AMERICAN POPULISM IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE. Edited by Michael L. Conniff. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982. Pp. xiii, 257. Notes, index. $19.95 cloth, $9.95 paper.

THIS WORK CONSISTS OF SIX studies on five Latin American countries, one each on the United States and Russia, and an introductory and a concluding chapter. As with all such collections, it is uneven in quality. The introduction and the

conclusion offer the most penetrating insight, the broadest perspective, and the clearest definition of populism. Unfortunately, several of the case studies do not measure up to these standards. The piece on Eva Peron does not fit well into the overall scheme of the book, and the chapter on Russia is marred by confusion in organization and ideas.

Michael Conniff, the editor, opens the work with a definition of populism as *"urban, multiclass, electoral, expansive, 'popular,'* and *led by charismatic figures"* (p. 13). He grants that U.S. populism was basically rural and that Russian populism had strong roots in rural areas; however, he maintains that Latin American populism was overwhelmingly urban. Conniff also divides the populist movement into two phases: an early reformist era from about 1920 to the end of World War II, and a national development era from 1945 to the mid-1960s. Opposition to the old oligarchy and to foreign investors (both seen as exploiters and obstacles to economic development, political participation, and social mobility) connected the two periods and formed the driving force of movements whose leaders were reformers not revolutionaries. When these limited reforms proved insufficient to satisfy growing mass demands, more and more radical movements arose to overshadow populism from the late 1960s onward.

In the conclusion, Paul Drake asks if populism is dead once and for all. Isolating three of Conniff's characteristics of populism (charismatic leadership, multiclass coalitions, and reformist policies) he gives at least equivocal answers. He hesitates to write off personalistic leaders, given their long tradition in Latin American history, and yet he believes that in the more industrialized countries, their day may have passed; so too for reformism and multiclass alliances. "However," he says, "since scholars remain unsure about the definition, causes, and consequences of populism, it is still problematic whether this volume is dealing with a revival or a relic" (p. 218).

Among the case studies Conniff does a good job with Vargas and Brazil in applying his general characteristics of populism to a particular case. Conniff, however, runs into some difficulties in differentiating populism from corporatism and in relating both to electoral politics; here the concepts get fuzzy. David Tamarin, writing on Argentina, sees early reformist populism in Irigoyen and late developmentalist populism in Peron. He argues persuasively that Peron could not hold together the multiclass alliance in the face of economic stagnation in the early 1950s nor revive it in the early 1970s in the face of economic crisis. Jorge Basurto gives us an interesting account of Mexican politics and policies under Echeverría but ties those policies only weakly to a concept of populism because of his confusion as to the meaning of the term. He interprets populism as having lower class not multiclass appeal. Steve Stein on Peru and Steven Ellner on Venezuela fall into similar difficulties. Stein offers little or no analysis of populism in relation to APRA, a labor party with some upper-class leaders, while Ellner on several occasions seems to equate populism with socialism. Ferenc Szasz writes an interesting brief account of U.S. populism of the 1880s and 1890s within the framework set by Conniff, but Allison Blakely offers the reader a populism in

Tsarist Russia unlike any other populism in this volume. The author never defines the term either in general or within the Russian context and applies it primarily to the Social Revolutionary Party (S.R.P.). The problem is that the S.R.P. never gained a mass base. Moreover, its leaders were noncharismatic, many followers belonged to the intelligentsia, its policies were radical, and its methods were terror and assassination. Finally, Blakely's claim to be dealing with populism loses all credibility when she suggests that Stalinism was populist on the grounds of its urban emphasis, multiclass support, universal suffrage (she admits it had severe limits), and charismatic leadership.

But let me not end on a negative note. The book has several solid chapters. It also offers much suggestive and insightful material, provides excellent pointers for further research, and demonstrates the enormous difficulties of comparative analysis. The problems should not discourage scholars from pursuing the topic but rather challenge them to produce a literature on populism comparable to that currently flourishing on corporatism and militarism.

University of Texas at Austin KARL M. SCHMITT

THE COMPASSIONATE SAMARITAN: THE LIFE OF LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON. By Philip Reed Rulon. Chicago: Nelson-Hall, 1981. Pp. xv, 348. Illus., notes, bibliog., index. $21.95 cloth, $10.95 paper.

THE AUTHOR'S PURPOSE IS A WORTHWHILE ONE. While Lyndon B. Johnson's reputation as a domestic reformer is probably secure, it has been overshadowed by the unfortunate aspects of the man's personality and by the tragedy of Vietnam. Author Rulon feels that we need to be reminded of some of Johnson's real achievements, especially of his support of educational programs. The author also relates the emphasis on education in Johnson's public life to his family and cultural roots and to his perception of the significance of education in his experience of upward mobility. The book's flaws, however, are so numerous it will not aid significantly in refurbishing Johnson's reputation.

The author claims that his text is based on extensive archival research; but this is not borne out by the footnotes that are mostly citations of the Congressional Record, collections of Johnson's speeches, and other readily available sources. Moreover, in his earnestness to help his subject, the author reveals a distressing insensitivity. He explains the decline in support for the Vietnam War as resulting "from the fact that not all available men and weapons were being employed to achieve a total victory" (p. 281). It is hard to believe that the author could ignore moral indignation as one of the sources of opposition to the war. Rulon also glosses over Johnson's improprieties that others have brought to light. This might be pardonable since, despite its subtitle, the book focuses on education and is not a "life" of Johnson. But even in its primary purpose the book provides little enlightenment. The discussion of the more important bills that Congress passed during Johnson's presidential years is an uncritical catalogue that does not clarify Johnson's lasting contributions to educational policy.

Finally, reading the book is a cultural shock. Beginning with the redundancy of the first part of the book's title, one proceeds to the first page of the Preface where the reader is given the profound insights that Johnson was "a unique individual" and that the first seventy years of the twentieth century were "virtually unprecedented in history." The book is written in a prose deadened by excessive use of the passive voice. It is further marred by numerous clumsy sentences, frequent instances of the ungrammatical: "Sam would have liked to be a lawyer . . ." (p. 9), and "Each memoranda . . ." (p. 211); instances of unusual diction and syntax: "New vistas were pioneered . . ." (p. 146), Johnson's "meeting with President-elect Nixon proved nondescript . . ." (p. 299), and the heart attack of 1972 "mortally wounded Johnson's health . . ." (p. 311); and absurd statements: prior to 1913, the United States "Senate had no great political consequence . . ." (p. 107), America's emphasis on vocational education can be traced to European existentialism (p. 114), and Senator William Knowland's "liberal beliefs separated him from the mainstream of Republican thought" (p. 123). That an author in a hurry might submit such writing is, perhaps, understandable; but that it could get past an editor of a reputable publisher is beyond belief.

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