

10-1-2008

In Passing: Monroe Lee Billington, 1928–2008

Jon Hunner

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr>

Recommended Citation

Hunner, Jon. "In Passing: Monroe Lee Billington, 1928–2008." *New Mexico Historical Review* 83, 4 (2008).
<https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmhr/vol83/iss4/6>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Mexico Historical Review* by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.

In Passing

MONROE LEE BILLINGTON, 1928–2008

Jon Hunner

Dr. Monroe Lee Billington, Emeritus Professor at New Mexico State University, died suddenly on 13 May 2008. Born on 4 March 1928 at Duncan, Oklahoma, Monroe earned his bachelor's degree at the Oklahoma Baptist University in 1950, his Masters at the University of Oklahoma in 1951, and his PhD at the University of Kentucky in 1955. He began his four decades as a professor at the University of South Dakota, moved on to the University of Toledo, and then to New Mexico State University. While at NMSU, Monroe was the founding head of the History Department from 1968 to 1975. He helped to create an independent Department of History, the Public History Program, and the Monroe Billington Award given annually for the best Master's thesis. He also initiated the Lydie Thiery Hull Endowment that continues to support history graduate students. He served as Visiting Fulbright Professor at the University of Vienna (Austria) in 1962–63, at the University of the Ryukyus (Japan) in 1985, and at the University of Genoa (Italy) in 1989. He retired from NMSU in 1995.

His books include *Thomas P. Gore: The Blind Senator from Oklahoma* (1967), *The American South: A Brief History* (1971), *The Political South in the Twentieth Century* (1975), *Southern Politics Since the Civil War* (1984), and *New Mexico's Buffalo Soldiers, 1866–1900* (1991). He published fifteen books and over eighty articles, reviews, essays, and chapters on a wide range of topics including agriculture, religion, segregation, and politics. Monroe was a generous professor committed to his students, his colleagues, his community through Rotary and other organizations, and the teaching of

history. He is survived by his wife Wilma, his children Marion, Mari, and Melinda, and his step-children Randall, Richard, Rosemary, and Ruthann. Donations can be made to the Monroe Billington Award in the History Department at New Mexico State University.

A Selected Bibliography of Monroe Lee Billington

- Thomas P. Gore: The Blind Senator from Oklahoma.* Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1967.
- The American South: A Brief History.* New York: Scribner, 1971.
- New Mexico's Buffalo Soldiers, 1866–1900.* Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1991.
- The Political South in the Twentieth Century.* New York: Scribner, 1975.
- Southern Politics since the Civil War.* Malabar, Fla.: R.E. Krieger, 1984.
- With Roger D. Hardaway. *African Americans on the Western Frontier.* Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1998.