

Southwest Books of the Year 2010

Complete List



Southwest Books of the Year is our guide to all the books published during the year, both fiction and nonfiction, with a southwestern setting or subject.

Our panel of subject specialists reviews the books we receive and pick the ones they think are the best. Their choices are published in our annual publication, *Southwest Books of the Year: Best Reading*.

The 2010 panel: Deborah Bock, Bill Broyles, Bruce Dinges, Patricia Etter, W. David Laird, and Margaret Loghry. Helene Woodhams is the coordinator for Southwest Books of the Year.

About a Mountain

By John D'Agata. W.W. Norton. 240 pp. \$23.95.

D'Agata casts a wide loop in his rumination on Las Vegas, Nevada's Yucca Mountain nuclear waste site, linguistics, painter Gustav Muench, suicide, and the fate of Western Civilization. Introduced to the desert city and its surroundings when his mother moves there in 2005, D'Agata is fascinated (or perhaps appalled is the more accurate term) by the culture of a community hell-bent on growth, while at the same time he is haunted by the story of a young man who leaps to his death from a hotel roof. Posing the questions who, what, when, and why, he examines the self-destructive impulses that eat away at individuals and societies. D'Agata isn't the first writer to look at Las Vegas for signposts to the future, but few have delved so deeply and articulately into the moral and ethical fallout of its booster mentality. [Bruce Dinges]

Yucca Mountain is some 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada and thought to be an ideal site for a nuclear waste storage facility. The project has been ongoing for 25 years costing billions, with continued bickering about the safety of the site and the possibility of radioactive contamination over the millenia. In 2005, the author thoroughly investigated the complexities of building a site and projected the consequences far into the future. Detracting from his main thesis is the attempt to solve the suicide of a young boy. An interesting read. [Patricia Etter]

Across the Great Divide: a Photo Chronicle of the Counterculture

By Roberta Price. University of New Mexico Press. 120 pp. \$34.95.

While a graduate student at the State University of New York at Buffalo, Price visited communes in New Mexico and Colorado during the summer of 1969 and later in winter 1970, photographing members, buildings, scenery, and everyday life. Later she took up residence at the Libre commune in Colorado where she stayed for six years and created more photographs. The photos and text in her volume triumphantly capture the hope, creativity and energy of the youth of that era. It is fascinating not only as a slice of history, but is also a testament to the power of the human spirit. Highly recommended with one small reservation: I wish Price had included a map showing locations of the various settlements. [Margaret Loghry]

Amexica: War Along the Borderline

By Ed Vulliamy. Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 320 pp. Index. \$26.00.

The subtitle of this book – war along the borderline—is not hyperbole. Journalist Ed Vulliamy is a genuine war correspondent, having been one of the first reporters into the Iraq War and having covered Bosnia’s war firsthand. He knows a war when he sees one. He took a 2,000 mile trip to see the US-Mexico borderland battle zone for himself, and what he saw is a “country” unto itself, one he calls Amexica, and it is there that a real war rages. His vivid details and interviews connect the news headlines, and his style is as authentic as a battle report from the front lines. [Bill Broyles]

In 2009, British journalist Vulliamy traveled the U.S.-Mexico border from San Diego, California, to Brownsville, Texas, interviewing people and collecting stories from the frontlines in the war involving police, the military, illegal immigrants, industrialists, workers, and drug cartels. The picture he paints, based on a decade covering border issues, is neither pretty nor reassuring, but his keen-eyed and level-headed book - rich in personal observation and anecdotal detail - should be required reading for everyone who struggles to make sense out of this seemingly senseless situation. [Bruce Dinges]

Appetite for America: How Visionary Businessman Fred Harvey Built a Railroad Hospitality Empire that Civilized the Wild West

TOP PICK

By Stephen Fried. Bantam Books. 518 pp. Index. \$27.00.

Harvey changed the culture of restaurants that catered to train travelers through his attention to food and service in what he called a “Harvey Worthy” environment. That environment included using the finest European linens, cutlery and glassware in his legendary establishments along the route of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroads. Also legendary were the famed “Harvey Girls,” created in the belief that women should tend to the restaurants’ customers. Harvey’s empire grew to include hotels, created by designer and architect Mary Jane Coulter, and Indian Detour Couriers, women trained in Southwestern history and lore, who guided travelers to spectacular sites. This is an enjoyable and well-researched history of food and travel through the Southwest! [Patricia Etter]

For six decades Fred Harvey restaurants, dining cars, and hotels provided the gold standard for quality and customer service in America, while shaping the popular image of the West in general and the Southwest in particular. In this appealing history, Fried follows the fortunes of the family business through three generations, highlighting the successive visions of fathers and sons, describing legendary innovations such as the Harvey Girls and indoor shopping malls, and assessing Fred Harvey's creative impact on the Grand Canyon, southwestern architecture, American Indian arts, and even Disneyland. A terrific read and a fascinating study of American entrepreneurship and culture. [Bruce Dinges]

Arizona: Nations and Art

By Annika Benning. Walnut Canyon Press. 49 pp. \$14.99.

At first glance, it is hard to believe that Annika Benning, a teenager, conceived, wrote and photographed this fact-filled book for children about Arizona Native Americans. The publishing information does credit Ani Benning, Annika’s mother, as editor/book designer, so understandably the teen had guidance in executing such a polished-looking publication. What admirably emerges is an earnest effort to honor and portray aspects of Native life, culture, art and history that Annika gleaned from her travels and reading. A glossary, museum list and other photo credits are included, but no bibliography/ reading list. [Deborah Bock]

Art of West Texas Women: a Celebration

By Laurie J. Churchill, Kippra D. Hopper. Texas Tech University Press. 196 pp. Index. \$29.95.

Take twenty women artists who live and work in west Texas, add full-color photos of their work, introduce them and their work with clear essays, and you have a book that commands you to turn every page. The art ranges from the paintings of Amy Winton to the miniature scenes of Pat Maines, the pottery of Marilyn Grisham to the painted hubcaps of Collie Ryan. My own favorites are the photographs by Tracy Lynch, or the sculptures of Dale Jenssen, or – heck, they’re all interesting. It is a cheery book, ripe with creativity. [Bill Broyles]

What a beautiful book! The authors select twenty contemporary West Texas female artists and reproduce several of their works in full color and write interpretive essays on each. What could be a hodge-podge, since the artists and their art are very diverse, is unified by the strong themes of independence, feminism, and the all-abiding influence of the West Texas climate, landscape and ruggedness. This is a keeper. [Margaret Loghry]

As a Farm Woman Thinks: Life and Land on the Texas High Plains, 1890-1960

By , Nellie Witt Spikes. Texas Tech University Press. 288 pp. Index. \$34.95.

The text is selected features (early 1930s-1961) from several local Texas newspapers by Spikes (1888-1977), detailing remembrances and observations on life in West Texas. The unappealing title (it was the name of her column as well as earlier features by Laura Ingalls Wilder) belies the fascinating insights, history, and often lyrical writing in the collection. One gets a strong sense of the environment, weather extremes, the grit of the farm families, the spirit of community and optimism, and always the never-ending work. She shows a quiet sense of humor as in her observation on getting older about not feeling ready for the shelf but rather to lean on the shelf. This is an important contribution. [Margaret Loghry]

Baboquivari Mountain Plants: Identification, Ecology, and Ethnobotany

By Daniel F. Austin. University of Arizona Press. 333 pp. Index. \$79.95.

The Baboquivari Mountains southwest of Tucson are renowned for their natural beauty, enchanting history, and fascinating plants and animals. The summit is sacred ground for the Tohono O’odham. Botanist Dan Austin shares his extensive romance with the mountain by describing 187 of the plants found there. His affection is contagious as he talks about their ecology, how people have traditionally used them, where they are found, and how to identify them. But the book is much more than an i.d. book: it’s a very engaging conversation about our world, our own history, and even our language, for Austin, with the help of linguist David Shaul, dazzles us with the history of plant names in dozens of languages. [Bill Broyles]

Bad Samaritan: a Sister Agatha Mystery

By Aimée Thurlo, David Thurlo. St. Martin's Minotaur. 262 pp. \$24.99.

Sister Agatha belongs to a monastery in Bernalillo, New Mexico, but she’s not your stereotypical nun. Her steady companion is Pax, a German shepherd who washed out of the police department. Her transportation is either the monastery’s aged Antichrysler or her motorcycle with a sidecar. She moonlights as a detective. In this adventure the incumbent sheriff, a long-time friend, is accused of murdering his opponent. The characters are well drawn, the local politics are realistic, the plot moves along with surprising twists, and the subplot concerning the economic realities faced by the monastery is believable. A good, light-hearted read. [Margaret Loghry]

Barbed Wire: The Fence that Changed the West

By Joanne S. Liu. Mountain Press Publishing Company. 141 pp. Index. \$14.00.

This well-written and -researched history is a good survey of the subject. Liu gives us not only the history of the wire itself but also something of the 19th century background that brought about its creation (or, one might say, its many

creations). She covers the boom in the cattle/beef business that brought about the massive increases in herds followed by the range wars which are such a familiar part of western novels and movies. Then she lays out the legal battles that occurred as nearly 600 patents were issued and violations were common. Barbed wire was, after all, a hugely profitable business worth \$30 million a year in the late 1800s! Finally Liu lays out some of the aftermath as settlers further closed the open range and government policies encouraged farming. One quibble: in an otherwise excellent and thorough bibliography of nearly 100 citations, there is no listing of *The Bobbed Wire Bible*, first published in 1969 and subsequently many, many times in revised and updated versions for nearly 30 years. [W. David Laird]

Barbed wire – devil’s rope – changed an entire landscape, the American West. In a story filled with intrigue about hundreds of wire designs, patent wars, land grabs, and unintended consequences, Lui smoothly tells the tale. Very nicely done. [Bill Broyles]

Beyond the American Pale: the Irish in the West, 1845-1910

By David M. Emmons. University of Oklahoma Press. 480 pp. Index. \$34.95.

Irish Catholics were lured West as were Protestant migrants. They manned the military posts, were enticed by various gold rushes and mining endeavors, labored on the railroads, and with the spread of agriculture, town building.

Bolitas de Oro: Poems of my Marble-Playing Days

By Nasario García. University of New Mexico Press. 110 pp. \$24.95.

Written in both Spanish and English, the poems recall Garcia’s young life along with his family and neighbors in west central New Mexico in the mid-twentieth century.

Bone Fire, The

By Christine Barber. Minotaur Books. 308 pp. \$24.99.

At the annual burning of Zozobra in Santa Fe a human skull is found in the ashes. It seems to be linked to a missing child two years earlier whose body was never found, but the lead detective on that investigation is dead and the family feels harassed and threatened by the investigation. Barber throws in some quirky twists that make this police procedural feel like Santa Fe. [W. David Laird]

Book of Murdock, The

By Loren D. Estleman. Forge Hardcover. 272 pp. \$23.99.

In his latest western adventure sometime lawman Page Murdock (regular readers may remember him as a cowboy, a saloonkeeper, and other “professions” along the way) is sent in the guise of a priest to the town of Owen in the Texas Panhandle where the suspicious townfolk are more or less leery of all outsiders. Estleman’s clever dialog and smooth writing keep the pages turning while Murdock moves from one crisis to the next. Then, lo and behold, who should he encounter in this law-forsaken place but a woman (you can guess her profession) from his past. She knows very well he is no man of the cloth! [W. David Laird]

Butterflies of Grand Canyon, The

By Margaret Erhart. Plume. 340 pp. \$15.00.

Intertwining plotlines in this 1950s tale give Erhart ample opportunity to reveal much about Arizona's Grand Canyon, especially the natural features, and most especially its butterflies. But this is a mystery and Erhart provides us with more than one corpse to consider. Clever, snappy dialog and shifting relationships between characters keep us speed-reading ahead wondering how in the world will these things come together. [W. David Laird]

Butterfly Landscapes of New Mexico

TOP PICK

By Steven J. Cary. New Mexico Magazine. 167 pp. Index. \$27.95.

Open this book at random and you can be sure to find a butterfly ready to fly right off the page. This remarkable publication contains hundreds of photographs of every butterfly known to sojourn in New Mexico—some 400 beauties, each one unique. Mother Nature has outdone herself in designing colorful gossamer wings. The author provides a map of all the state's counties, coded for the number of species to be found in each. Included are striking photographs of the terrain preferred by the various species. Also included is a check list, a butterfly glossary, recommended reading, maps, and an index. This is indeed a winner, and one need not leave his armchair to fully enjoy a butterfly hunt. [Patricia Etter]

Steve Cary loves butterflies and you will, too. He tells where you can find them in New Mexico, shows how to identify them, and excites you with page after page of intriguing winged characters with names like Arizona skipper, orange spiderling, lustrous copper, and dotted checkerspot. Informative sidebars explain that butterfly eggs may survive several years until conditions are right, discuss why some habitats are better than others, introduces us to some famous lepidopterists, and explains why we need butterflies. The approach is fresh, and this is an attractive book in all respects. [Bill Broyles]

Cady Wells and Southwestern Modernism

By Robin Farwell Gavin, Lois Palken Rudnick, Sharyn Rohlfen Udall, Cady Wells. Museum of New Mexico Press. 160 pp. Index. \$39.95.

Wells, a New Mexican, died in 1954, short of his 50th birthday. His was the era of what we called "modern art" and his paintings, of which 50 are reproduced here, follow his search for his own identity. Essays by editor Rudnick as well as by Robin Farwell Gavin and Sharyn R. Udall reveal much about his life and his interactions with such figures as Georgia O'Keeffe and Martha Graham. Is it possible to save, with a book, an artist from almost total obscurity? This handsome volume makes a valiant effort. [W. David Laird]

California Odyssey: An Overland Journey on the Southern Trails, 1849

By William R. Goulding. Arthur H. Clark Co.. 356 pp. Index. \$45.00.

What a thrill to vicariously travel along with a 49er Argonaut 160 years later. During William R. Goulding's seven month trip with the Knickerbocker Expedition in 1849, he went from New York to California, riding steamboats, trains, stagecoaches, horses, and wagons, and even relying on his own feet. Thanks to assiduous detective work by Patricia Etter, we now have a full account of his life and of his trip as he recorded it in a rich diary. His descriptions of southern New Mexico and the Gila River Trail in Arizona provide much fun and information. Especially entertaining are descriptions of early Tucson and crossing the Colorado River at Yuma. California Odyssey tells a remarkable story with exemplary scholarship. Excellent maps accompany the text and notes. [Bill Broyles]

The editor of William Goulding's diary written on his Gold Rush journey from New York to San Francisco between February 18 – September 18, 1849 has done an incredible job of researching and clarifying with copious explanatory notes a work whose authorship was previously unknown. Her introductory biography tells us about the man, who seems to have been intelligent, literate, ethical, and gregarious. This outstanding book is a great addition to our knowledge of this period of history and the hardships endured by early pioneers in the Southwest. [Margaret Loghry]

Caprock Canyonlands: Journeys into the Heart of the Southern Plains

By Dan L. Flores. Texas A&M University Press. 232 pp. Index. \$24.95.

Tired of seeing the same old landscape? Try this eye-opening book by Dan Flores, where his alluring photos and thoughtful essays introduce us to the canyons and ridges and rivers of the Southern High Plains of Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. It is grand country, full of surprises, but places like the Canadian River gorge, upper Brazos, Caprock Escarpment, Edwards Plateau, Palo Duro, and Valley of tears are known to relatively few tourists and hikers. Portions of it are national park quality. This edition has a new introduction by Annie Proulx and afterword by Thomas Dunlap. Don't read the book unless you're willing to change your vacation plans. This book would be one of my top picks of the year except that it is a 20th anniversary edition. [Bill Broyles]

Here is the Twentieth Anniversary edition of Flores' work with a new foreword and afterword. It features stunning photographs of a wondrous land of canyons and badlands in southeastern Texas and New Mexico. Often ignored in favor of places like the Grand Canyon, this country deserves attention to the area's rich history and scenery that has been reflected in the works of numerous writers and artists. It makes one want to pack a suitcase and take off for what could be an unforgettable trip through some of Nature's wonders. [Patricia Etter]

Carved by Time: Landscapes of the Southwest

By Jake Rajs. Monacelli. 255 pp. \$75.00.

Glorious is one term that describes this coffee table book loaded with magnificent southwestern views in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah. Color defines a myriad of sandstone formations set against the deep blue of the sky. Here we have both natural landscape carved by wind and rain, altered by prehistoric peoples' signatures in the form of rock drawings and ancient pueblos built with hand-hewn stone. Here are the various hues of green in a northern forest and in the lowlands, the saguaro standing tall with arms reaching in all directions. Here is the essence of the southwest by photographer, Jake Rais. [Patricia Etter]

Cesar Chavez: a Photographic Essay

TOP PICK FOR KIDS

By Ilan Stavans. Cinco Puntos Press. 91 pp. \$13.95.

This simply told, moving account of the life of Cesar Chavez reveals what a humble yet forceful man he was, and what an extraordinary and internationally-known person he became. An admirable quality of Stavans' biography is the choice of photographs to illustrate Chavez' life, because of the immediate yet historical connection photography creates. According to the author, a Latin American and Latino Culture professor at Amherst College, the photos were gleaned from the Farm Workers Archive and the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation, and most were shot by amateur photographers. Adults as well as young adults will find this a suitable introduction to Chavez. [Deborah Bock]

Charles Bowden Reader, The

By Charles Bowden. University of Texas Press. 297 pp. \$24.95.

Fans of Bowden's hard-hitting essays and reportage will relish this collection of some of his best pieces, at least partly to be reminded of his humor as well as his insights. Remember the rattlesnake he christened Beulah and left alone near his front porch even though he acknowledged a serious fear of snakes? There is much to absorb in this nicely edited collection for it contains pieces of books, pieces of essays, pieces of journal articles, even some speechifying. If by some chance you have never read any Bowden, this book could be your eye-opening introduction! [W. David Laird]

History, I predict, will judge Charles Bowden to be one of America's great writers. His literary voice is stirring and distinctive, reaching millions through magazines, books, newspapers, and NPR. His analyses pulse with fact and logic. He is a Picasso who with one uninterrupted pencil line can draw you a camel or a duck ... or a personality or history. At heart he is a reporter who would die to bring you a story. His conscience yaps at our heels. Many times he says what

we don't want to hear, but he says it so well that we must listen. Here is an able collection of some of his very best work. In fact, the editors easily could have pulled material for six or eight volumes: Bowden's nature writings (some coronated him as Ed Abbey's successor), crime beat (murder, rape, savings and loan fraud), eco-history (where has our ground-water gone?), border politics and mayhem (remember Juarez?), and other insistent topics. If you haven't already met him, now's a good chance. If you have, you know the treat in store. [Bill Broyles]

Chief Loco: Apache Peacemaker

By Bud Shapard. University of Oklahoma Press. 376 pp. Index. \$34.95.

Thoroughly grounded in written documents and Apache oral tradition, this impressive volume chronicles the life and times of an Indian leader who for more than a half-century sought accommodation with advancing Anglo civilization and, more often than not, found himself wedged uncomfortably between two cultures. In the process, Shapard uncovers new facts, corrects old errors, and offers fresh perspectives on Loco's life and on the Indian wars in the Southwest. A welcome addition to the growing list of Native American biographies. [Bruce Dinges]

Colossus: Hoover Dam and the Making of the American Century

By Michael A. Hiltzik. Free Press. 496 pp. Index. \$30.00.

A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist describes in page-turning prose the epic battle to harness the Colorado River through the stories of the politicians, engineers, hucksters, construction moguls, and thousands of ordinary men engaged in the herculean effort to erect the world's largest dam. Hiltzik is strongest in capturing the immense drama and plumbing the human dimensions of this awe-inspiring story. His bibliography provides intrigued readers with a solid list of sources, some of which take deeper looks into the engineering details and the complicated environmental and political legacy of the dam that he argues "simultaneously built the West and confined it in a strait-jacket." [Bruce Dinges]

Hiltzik, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, here presents a dramatic story about the workers responsible for building the Hoover Dam during the Great Depression. Men, desperate for work, risked injuries, often ignored or untreated, lived in makeshift conditions, worked for long hours with enforced labor, inadequate food, and little protection from the elements. The author tells how the building of the dam contributed to the development of Denver, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, and San Diego, ultimately becoming a symbol and monument to the workers who toiled to build it. We await a new story about the men who built the recently completed bridge that spans the river thus relieving traffic over Hoover Dam. [Patricia Etter]

Conservation of Shared Environments: Learning From the United States and Mexico

By Laura Lopez-Hoffman. University of Arizona Press. 320 pp. Index. \$24.95.

This collection of 17 chapters examines a variety of trans-boundary environmental problems. The format and content would serve well for supplementary college classroom reading as each chapter begins with a summary description of a problem and concludes with recommendations. Taken as a whole they present a broad view of the challenges of preserving bio-diversity across the U.S.-Mexico border. The authors come from government and non-governmental organizations as well as academia. [W. David Laird]

Can environmentalists be reasonable as well as passionate? In 17 chapters, this thoughtful volume proves they can. Experts on the US-Mexico borderlands share their analyses of the conservation problems and their suggestions for solution. The experts represent both countries and many concerned organizations. The bottom line for across-the-border conservation is cooperation among groups and between countries, because the many problems can only be addressed by partnerships. This is an important book, for it is both practical and hopeful, and heaven knows that we need both, especially now. [Bill Broyles]

Converging Streams: Art of the Hispanic and Native American Southwest

By . Museum of Spanish Colonial Art. 283 pp. Index. \$55.00.

This is a catalog for an exhibition at the Museum of Spanish Colonial Art. The 179 color plates display objects ranging from matachine headdresses and retablos to Navajo blankets, silver jewelry and cowhide playing cards! As good as the color plates are, this book is most remarkable for its text. There are eleven essays by experts including editor Wroth, Marc Simmons, Lane Coulter and Ann Lane Hedlund. Each essay is aimed at helping us understand how the cultures of the Southwest have affected each other during centuries of living, working, eating, fighting, painting, carving and dying side by side. It is a wonderful volume, containing both beauty and wisdom. [W. David Laird]

This glorious book, just for starters, has over 100 figures and 179 color plates displaying the artifacts of daily life – tools, textiles, ceremonial objects, pottery, jewelry, and architecture – that show change over time as cultures adapt and interact. These form an exhibit comparing works from the Pueblos, Hispanos, and Athapaskans of New Mexico at the Museum of Spanish and Colonial Art in Santa Fe. Text is provided by eleven experts in the various fields, including Marc Simmons, Ann Lane Hedlund, and Cynthia Chavez Lamar. An example of this convergence is a set of Apache Playing Cards painted on rawhide and copied from 18th & 19th century Spain, probably used in the game of Monte, a very popular card game adopted in colonial New Mexico. A book by Virginia & Howard Wayland, *Playing Cards of the Apache 18th & 19th Century Spain*, was reviewed by Southwest Books in 2006. [Patricia Etter]

Country of Vast Designs, A: James K. Polk, The Mexican War, and the Conquest of the American Continent

By Robert W. Merry. Simon & Schuster. 592 pp. Index. \$30.00.

Towering personalities and intense political battles propel Merry's lively narrative of mid-nineteenth century American expansionism. Describing the eleventh president as a man of "limited imagination tied to a propulsive ambition and an unceasing tenacity," Merry, the former editor of *Congressional Quarterly*, describes how, during his single term, Polk harnessed the forces of Manifest Destiny to expand the nation's boundaries to encompass Texas, the Southwest, California, and Oregon. While painting history in broad strokes, Merry captures the drama, and tragedy, of an exuberant young nation flexing its muscles. [Bruce Dinges]

James K. Polk was President of the United States for one term. He presided over the war with Mexico and ultimately was responsible for establishing the continental United States as we now know it. It is interesting to note that the author does not mention that Polk in his final message to Congress on December 5, 1848 confirmed the truth of the rumor of enormous concentrations of gold in California, thus giving his blessing to hundreds of thousands of emigrants eager to seek their fortune in what was to become the Golden State. [Patricia Etter]

Cowboy: the Ultimate Guide to Living Like a Great American Icon

By Matt Pellegrini, Rocco Wachman. Harper. 224 pp. \$13.99.

Chapters on cowboy gear, horses, chuck wagon cooking and rodeo as well as other topics cover the basics of modern cowboying (no matter where located geographically). The information is presented in short topical sections, usually no more than a paragraph or two, which makes for easy browsing, but it should have had an index. [W. David Laird]

Crash of TWA Flight 260, The

By Charles M. Williams. University of New Mexico Press. 268 pp. \$21.95.

As a young air force lieutenant, Williams was a member of the rescue team that recovered the bodies of thirteen passengers and three crew members from the wreckage of an airliner that crashed into the Sandia Mountains minutes after take off from Albuquerque airport on February 19, 1955. In a book that is part investigative history, part memoir, and part scrapbook, Williams provides biographies of the victims, recreates the doomed flight, explains the successful

fight to overturn the initial assigning of blame, describes his return fifty years later to the scene and his meetings with family members, and presents his conclusions on the cause of the disaster. Dozens of photographs, some taken at the crash site on the day of the recovery, illuminate this painstaking and affecting examination of an all-but-forgotten tragedy and its legacy. [Bruce Dinges]

Crossing with the Virgin: Stories from the Migrant Trail

By Kathryn Ferguson, Ted Parks, Norma A. Price. University of Arizona Press. 224 pp. \$17.95.

In these dispatches from the front lines, three veteran Samaritans (volunteers who provide humanitarian assistance to distressed border crossers) interweave their own stories with the stories of the men, women, and children they rescue from gruesome deaths in the southern Arizona desert. Their eloquent and moving testimonies should open our eyes to the horrendous tragedy unfolding in our backyard and perhaps offer a beacon of hope in an otherwise dark world. [Bruce Dinges]

Dance of the Eggshells = Baile de Cascarones

TOP PICK FOR KIDS

By Carla Aragón, Socorro Aragøn, George Gonzales. University of New Mexico Press. 32 pp. \$18.95.

Aragon charms the reader with this celebration of a New Mexico tradition. Her family experiences shape this bilingual tale about two children who visit their grandparents during preparations and festivities related to cascarones, those colorful, decorated eggshells. Slight occurrences of sibling bickering, prepubescent obstinacy, and childish poutiness add a convincing touch of realism to which kids can relate. Love and respect for family prevail in the end. While never digressing from storytelling, Aragon reveals instructions on how to actually make the traditional eggs and perform the dance. Festively colorful illustrations add lively details and warmth to this picture book. [Deborah Bock]

Death of Josseline, The: Immigration Stories from the Arizona-Mexico Borderlands **TOP PICK**

By , Margaret Regan. Beacon Press. 221 pp. \$26.95.

She writes for the Tucson Weekly so it should come as no surprise that Regan's stories have the quality of directness, as if she were speaking to us one on one. There are few happy endings along the modern border between Arizona and Mexico; among many kinds of disasters, children get separated from their parents, injuries force walkers to just sit and wait for La Migra, and those truly bad men called coyotes simply abandon those whom they are supposed to be leading to el norte—but you can rest assured they do not return the money. Fine book, well-written, maybe we should make it required reading for all Arizonans! [W. David Laird]

Regan, a frequent contributor to Tucson Weekly, uncovers the human faces that are too often obscured behind a veil of statistics and rhetoric. In her sharply etched stories, readers come face to face with ranchers, border patrol agents, humanitarians, and illegal border crossers caught up in a web of policies and circumstances that seem to defy reason. This compelling book should be required reading for everyone concerned with border issues. [Bruce Dinges]

Desert Duty: On the Line with the U.S. Border Patrol

By Bill Broyles, Mark Haynes. University of Texas Press. 252 pp. \$24.95.

Off and on, beginning in 1983, author Broyles interviewed BP agents, both retired and on active duty, to gain perspective on a profession that is little-known to the general public. He was joined later by retired BP agent Haynes. Hundreds of hours of taped interviews with approximately 60 agents have been edited and selected, leading to these 19 statements. If you want to know what it is like to protect our southern border from the perspective of the men (and two women) who do the job, this is a great place to start finding out! [W. David Laird]

Desert Islands of Mexico's Sea of Cortez, The

By Stewart Aitchison. University of Arizona Press. 120 pp. \$15.95.

Stewart Aitchison, who has kayaked or hiked most of the islands in the Sea of Cortez, brings us his enormous love and knowledge in a tidy little book filled with photos, stories, and plenty of information. How were the islands made? How did plants and animals get there? Do people live on them? Aitchison ably explains the ecology, geology, and biology, as well as the human history. Kayak anyone? [Bill Broyles]

Aitchison is a master at creating guidebooks, but there are no trail maps or checkpoints here. This readable text is personal and descriptive, helping us understand the plants, animals and geology of the 44 small islands/islets strung out from near La Paz (at the southern tip of the Baja Peninsula) to the mouth of the Colorado River. Enjoyable reading by a writer who knows what he's writing about. [W. David Laird]

Dirty Wars: Landscape, Power, and Waste in Western American Literature

By John Beck. University of Nebraska Press. 378 pp. Index. \$55.00.

Here we have another look of the western landscape in literature as a vast wasteland since it has been used for atomic testing, uranium mining, military reservations, border policing, and more, often leaving toxic pollution in its wake. To get full enjoyment from this book a reader needs to be familiar with the writings of Leslie Marmon Silko, Don DeLillo, Rebecca Solnit, Julie Otsuka, and Terry Tempest Williams, and others. This reader for example, objects to Peter Bacon Hales' fictional version of life at Los Alamos that is a far cry from the actual version described in various diaries including that of Jennet Conant's 101 East Palace Road, Einstein, Oppenheimer, and other scholarly works. [Patricia Etter]

Dream Queen

By Betsy Thornton. Minotaur. 275 pp. \$25.99.

If you are a regular reader of southwestern mystery fiction you may find it hard to believe that this is Thornton's sixth Chloe Newcombe adventure/mystery that began with *The Cowboy Rides Away* in 1996! This one is what reviewers call a "prequel". That is, it precedes in time the other titles and tells us, among other things, how Chloe came to Dudley, Arizona (we all know it is Bisbee, don't we?) for the first time. Smoothly written, with good dialog, and interesting characters (Bisbee is famous for them). We can almost see the wink in Thornton's eye when Chloe is aided by Dudley's Victim Witness Program! [W. David Laird]

Dreamland: the Way Out of Juarez

TOP PICK

By Charles Bowden. University of Texas Press. 160 pp. \$19.95.

This is a remarkable collaboration between text and images. Anyone who has read Bowden's recent books about border issues will find more of his incisive and personal views and experiences here. Perhaps because of our familiarity with his writing, the text seems to pale a bit in comparison with Briggs' illustrations. She uses a technique known as "scratchboard" which presents to the eye the visual sense of etchings. Her subjects are sometimes playful, as in her takes on Bowden, but more often depict human beings in distress. She presents them with such skill that they might have been drawn by Hieronymus Bosch in the Middle Ages. The cover art warns us of the book's content, as it depicts a man either committing suicide or shooting someone in the back, or both. If I read the title and subtitle correctly, there are only two ways out of modern Juarez: stay high on drugs or die—either by your own hand or someone else's. An awesome book! [W. David Laird]

Occasionally, a book stops us dead in our tracks and forces us to take notice. In this stunning collaboration, artist Briggs's evocative drawings provide the pitch-perfect accompaniment to writer Bowden's visceral portrait of a Juarez chanel house. In images reminiscent of Durer and Bosch, Briggs captures the open-mouthed horror and intricate

details of a world Bowden describes spinning out of control as drug cartels battle each other and the state. The effect is at once horrifying and mesmerizing. Credit is also due graphic designer Kelly Leslie and the University of Texas Press for producing a book that is as much an artistic masterpiece as it is a literary tour de force. [Bruce Dinges]

Drowning Tucson

By Aaron Michael Morales. Coffee House Press. 330 pp. \$15.95.

The Tucson that Morales introduces us to in this volume is a place of hardship, especially for Hispanics and more especially for young people. Murders and severe beatings are common, drunkenness is routine, escape is nearly impossible. Although the characters in one section appear in others, this book is not so much a novel as a linked set of disasters. But the author knows this city and those of us who have lived here awhile recognize the streets, the bars, the hotels and restaurants, even the alleys as places familiar to our lives. After reading this story perhaps we will see these familiar places in a different, not complimentary, light, at least for a time. [W. David Laird]

Drug War Zone: Frontline Dispatches from the Streets of El Paso and Juárez

By Howard Campbell. University of Texas Press. 328 pp. Index. \$24.95.

Smugglers, narcs, killers, cops, and the walking dead voice their sides of the violent underworld known as the borderland drug war. This too-true war narrative reveals more than you dare to hear about the battle for the border.

Each and Her

By Valerie Martinez. University of Arizona Press. 96 pp. \$15.95.

One moving piece of poetry fills this small book that deals with the murders of young women in the Mexican state of Chihuahua.

Elephants in the Land of Enchantment, The

By Beverly Sue Eschberger. Kinkajou Press. 71 pp. \$3.99.

The Elephant Family visits New Mexico in this chapter book for children.

Emily Walks the Sheep Trail

TOP PICK FOR KIDS

By Cindy Shanks. AuthorHouse. 44 pp. \$19.95.

Self-published efforts don't always hit the mark, but this author, a retired elementary school teacher, succeeds as she portrays the first year in the life of Emily, a lamb. Shanks' sharp photographs, coupled with simple yet detailed text, vividly convey a fascinating tradition in Arizona ranching. Emily walks the Heber-Reno Sheep Trail as others have done for more than 100 years. For young readers, this picture book is a captivating look at contemporary family ranch life, too. The publisher also has a Spanish version of this book available, titled Emilia Camina la Vereda de Borregos. [Deborah Bock]

Endangered: Biodiversity on the Brink

By Mitch Tobin. Fulcrum Publishing. 467 pp. Index. \$27.95.

While reporter Mitch Tobin was filing environmental stories with a Tucson newspaper, he was also keeping fuller notes, not only on endangered Southwest bats, wolves, condors, humpback chubs, and jaguars, but also wildlife

managers, ranchers, scientists, and politicians. Tobin goes far beyond the headlines to bring us the story behind the story—personalities with dust on their boots, cryptic policies, and animals lying dead at our feet. Like the good reporter he is, Tobin can take a vat of facts and distill a spirited story, one served with thoughtful analysis and constructive suggestions. The result is a very solid but entertaining history of the Endangered Species Act in the Southwest. [Bill Broyles]

Every Crow in the Blue Sky and Other Poems

By Burgess Needle. Diminuendo Press. 126 pp. \$12.00.

Poet Burgess Needle has been a jack of many trades, including librarian, and his poems in this volume range over many topics: love, fishing, illness, travel, and everyday events. Gathered in three sections – Connections, Trips, and Close to Home, where most are Southwest poems – they bring a smile, a thought, or even a tear. My favorite is “Grandfather Antonio,” a tale of why the old man never goes to funeral wakes. Some memorable lines are in “Only Good News,” such as “Within the quiet canyons formed / by walls of books his gentle / voice colored a vision of weather...” And the poet’s own ability to laugh at himself comes through in “My Lover left In a Fit of Logic,” when he writes “Soon bald and toothless I shall really know / where I came from and who I am...” [Bill Broyles]

Exploring Desert Stone: John N. Macomb's 1859 Expedition to the Canyonlands of the Colorado

TOP PICK

By Steven K. Madsen. Utah State University Press. 296 pp. Index. \$34.95.

In 1859, Career Officer John N. Macomb, Jr., led the first survey of the region transected by the Old Spanish Trail, and particularly the canyonlands of the Colorado Plateau. Publication of his Report of an Expedition was held up due to the Civil War and did not receive the recognition it deserved. Madsen has resurrected and compiled an outstanding report on the expedition by adding recently unknown letters and diaries of Macomb's companions. Madsen located sites and natural features appearing in the report and documented each one using the technique of re-photography. Included with the book is a monumental facsimile map published by Frederick von Egloffstein in 1864. This reviewer would like to have seen a map that traced the journey showing modern location of expedition sites to help readers unfamiliar with the area. [Patricia Etter]

Drawing from extensive historical documents and personal trips, Steven Madsen unrolls the first big adventure to explore and record the topography of Canyonlands. The first half of the book narrates the details of the survey, with all of its fascinating characters and descriptions of “new” country, including copies of original maps and landscape sketches. The second half is a bonus: diaries of engineer Charles H. Dimmock and geologist John S. Newberry, a color folio of landscape views from the original report, letters written by Newberry and Frederick W. von Egloffstein, and a back-pocket copy of the survey’s map. [Bill Broyles]

Extraordinary Year of Ordinary Days, An

By Susan Wittig Albert. University of Texas Press. 221 pp. Index. \$24.95.

Mystery writer Susan Wittig Albert is best known for her China Bayles series, but in this book she writes with the warmth and reflection of a close friend sharing her diary for 2008. She covers gardening at her homes in New Mexico and Texas, the fuel crisis and election, writing books, and the reasons we live. Gentle, thoughtful reading as refreshing as rain water. [Bill Broyles]

Eye of the Mountain God

By Penny Rudolph. Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press. 304 pp. \$25.99.

Rudolph's fourth mystery revolves around a woman, both single and a mother by choice, not by chance. New to the northern New Mexico region, Megan and her daughter, who is slightly autistic, are both befriended and victimized. Their house is trashed in what the reader knows is a search for prehistoric emeralds that have come into their home by chance. When Megan discovers the gems, her efforts to both identify and protect them lead to Lizzie's abduction. She will do anything to get her daughter back safe. Then she begins to wonder if she can trust anyone, even new friends who seem to be trying to help her. Centuries old rituals and the rise of a new Aztlan are driving forces. [W. David Laird]

Farthest Home is in an Empire of Fire, The: a Tejano Elegy

By John Phillip Santos. Viking. 279 pp. \$25.95.

In this puzzling blend of fact and fiction, memoir and dreamscape, Santos takes readers on a journey across space and time in search of his family's Spanish and Mexican roots in the old world and the new. He even enlists the help of a visitor from the future who communicates with him through his computer. Santos' point about the blending of Spanish and indigenous peoples in South Texas and northern Mexico is well-taken, though hardly novel, but through all his travels and ruminations we catch only fleeting glimpses of his ancestors as flesh-and-blood characters. Warm descriptions of aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents on both sides of the Rio Grande enliven the book but are ultimately lost in a swirl of literary and philosophical meanderings. [Bruce Dinges]

Fey Tragedias: Faith and Tragedies in Hispanic Villages of New Mexico

By Nasario Garcia. Rio Grande Books. 159 pp. \$16.95.

Personal stories of inhabitants of small New Mexican Hispanic towns, and how their faith helps them combat the difficulties they face.

Fiesta at Rick's

By Deann Groen Bayless, Rick Bayless. W. W. Norton. 348 pp. Index. \$35.00.

Bayless, who owns 3 specialty restaurants in the east, provides approximately 200 recipes with all the details you need to produce great results. Special sections, such as "Luxury Guacamole Bar Cocktail Party for 12" push this "cookbook" into the realm of "party planner". [W. David Laird]

Finders Keepers: a Tale of Archaeological Plunder and Obsession

By Craig Childs. Little, Brown and Co.. 274 pp. Index. \$24.99.

Childs brings a wealth of personal experience to this rumination on the knotty, and perhaps unanswerable, question of what to do with prehistoric artifacts. Beginning with childhood discoveries in his Phoenix backyard and continuing through his adult ramblings across the Southwest, he has grappled with his own feelings, while observing and interviewing pothunters, archaeologists, museum curators, and knowledgeable collectors. His personal decision to leave these remnants of the ancient past in place will strike many readers as entirely sensible, but doesn't seem likely to gain much intellectual purchase with some of the impassioned people he describes in his elegantly written book. [Bruce Dinges]

Childs tells us not a single tale, as a misreading of the title might imply, but a gathering, one might say, of the deeds and misdeeds of archaeologists, pot hunters, and others involved in the "liberating" of artifacts and their dispersal (usually for money). His narrative is personal and often includes his own involvement in activities likely to be considered by academic archaeologists illegal or at the very least unethical. The market for plundered archaeological objects is world wide but, as Childs reminds us, many a tale begins and ends right here in our regional backyard(s). [W. David Laird]

Firewalker

By Allyson James. Berkley Sensation. 340 pp. \$7.99.

The heroine, Janet Begay, is, of course, Navajo, and her boyfriend Mick is that species of shape-shifter (also known as a skinwalker because it can change form from human to animal at will) who protects her at all costs. [W. David Laird]

Flood Song

By Sherwin Bitsui. Copper Canyon Press. 73 pp. \$15.00.

Bitsui, a Navajo, creates images (I hesitate to call these lines poetry) that are usually graphic and always startling. Here is the shortest complete "poem": Breath, steam, / who can tell the difference. [W. David Laird]

Poet Sherwin Bitsui speaks in dense, esoteric images of tribal life and his Southwest. Some of his lines I think I understand, such as "Each flickering finger:/ a memory of a flashing yellow sign, / blinks between charcoal sheets of monsoon rain" (page 12), but others are beyond me, such as "Dinetah—scratched out/ from the eye with juniper bark—/ hunches with engine sweat / curling out of its collar...(page 59)." Maybe I need a guide, or maybe the images play on Navajo symbols and words. The undercurrent of despair and death is unsettling, but whatever it all means, Bitsui's words are lingering and haunting. [Bill Broyles]

For a Girl Becoming

By Joy Harjo . University of Arizona Press. .

Well-known Native American poet Joy Harjo crafts a heartfelt evocation of stages in a girl's life from birth to adulthood. Meant as a joyful, positive guide to living, this poetic tale - almost a prayerful blessing - is laden with Native American-inspired values yet there is universal appeal. Imbued throughout is a comforting sense of familial love. Only nominally reflecting a Southwest setting, the text and illustrations evoke a more general, cross-cultural sensibility. [Deborah Bock]

Forty Freedoms

By M. H. Salmon. High Lonesome Books. 239 pp. \$24.95.

This account of a trial is told by Harley Simmons III while he is in jail in the bootheel of New Mexico, being tried for murdering the sheriff. Simmons explains that he is using the Salmon nom de plume because it was the name of an ancient ancestor, a writer whose works are now all lost! This sly humor will not be lost of some readers since this novel is populated with many of the people from an earlier Salmon novel! Having lived, Salmon that is, in this area of NM for more than two decades, he gets the speech patterns and attitudes just right; an enjoyable read about the values of nature and defense of wild lands. [W. David Laird]

Four Fingers of Death: a Novel

By Rick Moody. Little, Brown and Company. 725 pp. \$25.99.

In something of an homage to the late Kurt Vonnegut and B-movie auteur Roger Corman set in the dystopian near-future, Moody tells a story within a story involving a struggling writer/baseball card dealer commissioned to novelize the horror film, "The Clawing Hand." The result is an elaborate manuscript comprising the journal of a failed Mars mission and the story of a hunt in the Arizona desert for a severed arm intent on murder. Moody writes a weirdly affecting story of loss, while poking fun at modern society (including some gentle jabs at Tucson), global politics, and pop culture. But be forewarned, he makes few concessions to his readers. With sentences and paragraphs that double

back on one another for more than 700 pages, this wildly inventive novel demands patience and perseverance. [Bruce Dinges]

Fourth West, The

By Charles Wilkinson. University of Utah Press. 20 pp. \$4.95.

Wilkinson's first three Wests were the Native American West, the Gold Rush West, and the post WWII boom West. The fourth West starts now and he says it is ours to build or destroy. [W. David Laird]

Framing the Sacred: the Indian Churches of Early Colonial Mexico

By Eleanor Wake. University of Oklahoma Press. 368 pp. Index. \$65.00.

Native art and symbols appear in early Spanish colonial churches in Mexico and are thoroughly explained in this richly illustrated art history.

Fray Angélico Chavez: a Bibliography of Published Works (1925-2010) and a Chronology of His Life (1910-1996)

By Phyllis S. Morgan. Rio Grande Books. Index. \$16.95.

This is an updated bibliography of Chavez done by the author in 1980. The three major parts include a chronology of his life; works by him, including collected works; and books about him. The author knew him personally, both as a middle-aged lecturer and researcher in Albuquerque in the 1970s and in his last years in Santa Fe. This carefully researched and usefully annotated work would be essential for those studying Chavez and useful for readers interested in such subjects as New Mexico history, Catholicism, Hispano activism, art restoration, or literature. Indeed Chavez seemed master of all. [Margaret Loghry]

Not to be confused with Ellen McCracken's comprehensive biography noted elsewhere in this listing, Morgan's effort is prodigious in its own way. She lists more than 1,000 published items including poetry, reviews, novels, essays and, of course, short stories. All of this is preceded by a chronology of Chavez's life which spanned a large portion of the 20th century. From a bibliographical point of view this is an astonishing accomplishment worthy of its subject. [W. David Laird]

Frederick Hammersley

By Frederick Hammersley, Dave Hickey, Charlotte Grey Jackson, Sarah S. King, David Pagel, Arden Reed, Joseph Traugott. Museum of New Mexico Press. 192 pp. \$65.00.

This large format, lavishly illustrated book is a tribute to the art and life of abstract painter Frederick Hammersley (1919-2009), who began his career on the West Coast but spent his last 40 years painting in Albuquerque. The book is organized chronologically with four interpretive essays by art critics and curators and a concluding interview with the painter. Positives of the presentation are clear colorful reproductions, literate essays and ultimately an understanding of the artist's creative process from idea to completion. This book should be in every modern art lover's library. [Margaret Loghry]

Friendly Fallout 1953

By Ann Ronald. University of Nevada Press. 231 pp. \$24.95.

Readers of southwestern literature will remember Ronald for outstanding works such as *The New West of Edward Abbey* and *Reader of the Purple Sage*, so this amazing tour de force may come as no surprise. Now Foundation Professor of English at the Reno campus, she takes dead aim at the events in 1953 during the various above-ground atomic bomb tests. She creates composite characters who were “on the ground” that spring. Through their eyes we see that series of tests from different perspectives: an old “prospector, who may be a spy; a bartender who eavesdrops on the customers; a staffer sent out to find out why thousands of sheep are shedding their wool in clumps; and nine others. For anyone with enough years to remember those tests, this will be a remarkable reminder of just how far scientists and the army were willing to go in the cause of developing nuclear weapons. [W. David Laird]

From Cochise to Geronimo: the Chiricahua Apaches, 1874-1886

By Edwin R. Sweeney. University of Oklahoma Press. 706 pp. Index. \$39.95.

Sweeney, the author of landmark biographies of Cochise and Mangas Coloradas, chronicles the epic struggle of the Chiricahua Apaches to survive as a people and culture in the face of the federal government’s efforts to confine them on reservations. Sweeney’s astute analysis of published sources and three decades of exhaustive research in U.S. and Mexican archives, combined with extensive use of Apache oral tradition, elevate his story of heroism and betrayal head and shoulders above anything else in print. This engrossing book is an instant classic. [Bruce Dinges]

From the Hilltop

By Toni Jensen. University of Nebraska Press. 179 pp. \$19.95.

Not all of these 12 short fictions are set in the Southwest, but if you are a fan of the short story, settings won’t matter. Jensen’s characters come alive as we see their behavior or feel their water-soaked clothes or smell the dog or bear the heat while waiting to catch a bus. Fine reading experiences. [W. David Laird]

Gem Trails of Arizona

By James R. Mitchell. Gem Guides Book Co.. 271 pp. Index. \$14.95.

This guidebook, the latest revised edition of a work that has been around for fifty plus years, is a gem in itself. It is a compendium of up to date information for rockhounds collecting in Arizona. An introduction gives a general overview of safety rules and commonsense guidelines. The bulk of the book is comprised of double face spreads with a map of the collection site on the right and a text description and usually a photograph on the left. Brightly colored photographs of specimens in the center section grab the viewer. Helpful additions include a glossary of gems; an alphabetical mineral locator cross-indexed to specific sites; and lists of gem shows, mineral and mining museums, and clubs in Arizona. [Margaret Loghry]

Geology of Northern New Mexico's Parks, Monuments, and Public Lands, The

By L. Greer Price. New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources. 372 pp. Index. \$24.95.

This wonderful blend of geology, scenery, and state history takes you to 44 special places in northern New Mexico ranging over the Jemez Mountains and Vidal Caldera, the southern Rockies, the Rio Grande Rift, the Great Plains, and the Colorado Plateau. A team of knowledgeable geologists clearly introduces and explains Bluewater Lake, Ship Rock, Ghost Ranch, Gilman Tunnels, Sandia Mountains, Tent Rocks, Wheeler Peak, Sugarite Canyon and fascinating features in-between. Maps and diagrams complement the gorgeous photos, making this a must-have book. It’s a beautifully designed and laudable volume, especially for a state agency. [Bill Broyles]

Geronimo: a Biography

By Mary Stout. ABC-CLIO. Index. \$35.00.

Tucson librarian and author, Mary Stout, wisely sets a sympathetic tone by first conveying facts about Geronimo's early life as well as the life ways of the Apache culture, thereby creating a world in which Geronimo's actions can be more readily seen as part of a lifestyle disrupted by "foreign" forces. A much less stereotypical image thus emerges in this lengthy and thoughtfully written account for young adults. Geronimo's life as an Apache warrior is recounted in detail. Beyond his capture and incarceration, this biography concludes with events which created an aura of celebrity surrounding him. As part of the publisher's biography series designed primarily for the school and library market, this work includes chapter footnotes, a glossary, selected bibliography (which includes electronic resources,) and an index. [Deborah Bock]

Ghost of Milagro Creek, The: a Novel

By Melanie Sumner. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill. 267 pp. \$13.95.

Even if you don't believe in ghosts the ghost in this story, who narrates most of it, will not put you off. She's Ignacia Vigil Romero, a Jicarilla Apache woman thought to be a witch by many of her neighbors in northern New Mexico near Taos. She raises two boys, best friends until a woman comes between them. After her death Ignacia's spirit, for lack of a better word, continues to watch over the young men as she continues to tell us their story. Sumner has done her research and gives us lots of details that relate to Ignacia's heritage and to the Hispanic and Anglo community around her. Ten questions are included at the end making this book useful for discussion at a book group. [W. David Laird]

Ghost Towns of the Southwest: Your Guide to the Historic Mining Camps and Ghost Towns of Arizona and New Mexico

By James Hinckley, Kerrick James. Voyageur Press. 255 pp. Index. \$21.99.

If you need an excuse to jump in the car and go see Arizona or New Mexico, buy this fun book. History comes alive with Hinckley's text and helpful travel suggestions. Kerrick James provides splendid photos of places as diverse as Pinos Altos, Jerome, Two Guns, and Crown King. It would also be fun reading if you're snowbound and waiting for spring. [Bill Broyles]

Ghosts of Central Arizona

By Heather Woodward. Schiffer Publishing Ltd.. 192 pp. Index. \$14.99.

A ghostly tour of central Arizona by the founder of Paranormal Investigators of Southern Arizona.

Gift of Angels, A: The Art of Mission San Xavier del Bac

TOP PICK

By Bernard Fontana, Edward McCain. University of Arizona Press. 376 pp. Index. \$75.00.

In this sumptuous feast of a book, historian Fontana and photographer McCain highlight the treasures and explore the mysteries of southern Arizona's iconic "White Dove of the Desert." Drawing on a wealth of scholarly research and nearly two decades of intimate involvement with restoration efforts at the mission, Fontana wields a facile pen as he traces the church's two-century history and explains in mesmerizing detail the how and why of its art and architecture, placing it all within the broad framework of Catholic iconography and Old and New World culture. McCain's stunning color photographs (there are literally hundreds of them) transport readers into the darkest corners and farthest reaches of the structure Fontana so eloquently brings to life. Fontana, McCain, graphic designer Bill Benoit, the UA Southwest Center, and the University of Arizona Press have produced a volume for the ages. [Bruce Dinges]

Some years ago Bernard "Bunny" Fontana wrote what may be the smallest book on a Southwest mission; it was a postage-stamp-sized miniature book on Mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo in Texas. With publication of *A Gift of Angels* about mission San Xavier del Bac near Tucson, he has now written what is arguably the largest book on a Southwest mission and certainly the grandest. The text is splendid, covering statues, paintings, relief sculptures and angels of this 18th century living church. In the color photos, shot by Ed McCain from scaffolds and with special lights, we see this international treasure more clearly than anyone has ever seen it before or will again. [Bill Broyles]

Going Through Ghosts

By Mary Sojourner. University of Nevada Press. 281 pp. \$25.00.

Readers who read, enjoyed, and remember Sojourner's first novel, *Sisters of the Dream*, are sure to like this new one. Maggie Foltz is 55 and already at the end of her enthusiasm for life. She works in a Mojave Desert casino. The most interesting guy to come along recently is a Nam vet with serious psychological problems. When the young Hispanic woman, a kitchen worker, she has befriended is murdered her life seems endlessly sad. But in the world Sojourner creates, life is a continuum where the past and the future can both interact with the present! Even if you are too much a realist to buy in to the time warp, Sojourner is such a clever and careful writer that you can be drawn into the lives of her characters, you can see and feel the landscape, you can enjoy an interesting tale well-told. [W. David Laird]

Grand Canyon's Tusayan Village

By Patrick Whitehurst. Arcadia Publishing. 127 pp. \$21.99.

This Images of America edition covers Tusayan, a town and region south of the Grand Canyon, Arizona. Ten chapters have short introductions following by a couple hundred photos of people and places in the region. Images include Havasupai Indians, local ranchers, Park Service workers, school teachers, families, sports teams, and miners. The region is arid, with few streams or wells, so my favorite photo is a lineup of water trucks ready for the Fourth of July parade. [Bill Broyles]

Grand Canyon, The: From Rim to River

By Caroline Cook, Jim Turner. Rio Nuevo Publishers. 64 pp. This fresh photo look at Arizona's favorite place, the Grand Canyon, delivers awe, inspiration, and beauty. Each page is a marvel. . \$9.95.

This fresh photo look at Arizona's favorite place, the Grand Canyon, delivers awe, inspiration, and beauty. Each page is a marvel.

Grandest Ride, The

By Tom Brownold, Brad Dimock. Rio Nuevo Publishers. 44 pp. \$8.95.

Falling would be fatal, but Colorado River boatman Brad Dimock trades his oars for a saddle as he takes us on a mule ride to the bottom of the Grand Canyon along a narrow, winding trail that skirts sheer cliffs. It's the granddaddy of all trail rides for tourists and one that none of them will ever forget. Dimock shares what it is like to trust one's life to a hopefully-sure-footed mule, and Tom Brownold's dandy photos give us a wrangler's eye view of the job and the canyon. This book is the next best thing to saddling up. [Bill Broyles]

Grandpa's Magic Tortilla

By Demetria Martínez, Rosalee Montoya-Read. University of New Mexico Press. 30 pp. \$18.95.

Award-winning Latina poet and author Demetria Martinez has teamed up with another Latina writer, Rosalee Montoya-Read to create her first children's book which is also one in the publisher's Children of the West series. Set in Chimayo, New Mexico, this is a sweet story of loving grandparents whose grandchildren come to visit, help with the chores, and play in the idyllic rural setting. When grandpa burns one of the tortillas he is heating up for breakfast, the youngsters each conjure an image of an animal that they see in the burnt area. But then something more magical than their imaginations apparently occurs. Even the neighbor children can see the magic that adults do not. When something happens to this special tortilla, the neighbor children attempt to make amends. Softly rendered watercolor illustrations convey the liveliness, warmth, and imagination of this bilingual story. [Deborah Bock]

Gulf of California, The: Biodiversity and Conservation

By Richard C. Brusca. University of Arizona Press. 354 pp. Index. \$75.00.

Twenty-four Gulf of California scholars from both sides of the U.S./Mexico border contributed expertise in discussing the diversity of some 6000 recorded animal species found in the Gulf (Sea of Cortez). They were also concerned with the origins of the gulf, its physical and chemical characteristics, and conservation. The book is highly technical and will be treasured by scholars interested in the study of the Gulf. [Patricia Etter]

This is a major contribution to our understanding of the Gulf of California. Eleven expert chapters describe fishes, whales, marine birds, algae, sea turtles, and invertebrates and then discuss their future in a changing environment. Especially interesting are chapters on the history of the Gulf and Colorado River delta, on strange rhodolith beds (red algae) that resemble corals, and on the chemistry and water movement in the Gulf. The final chapter, on ecological conservation, is exceptionally thoughtful and innovative. This is another outstanding book in the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum nature series. [Bill Broyles]

Haunts of the Southwest

By Linda Moffitt. Schiffer Publishing Ltd.. 160 pp. Index. \$19.99.

Stories and photographs of ghostly places throughout the Southwest.

Hell on the Range: a Story of Honor, Conscience, and the American West

By Daniel Justin Herman. Yale University Press. 365 pp. Index. \$45.00.

Herman focuses a scholarly eye on the Pleasant Valley War, a topic that heretofore has been almost the exclusive province of novelists and amateur historians. In his painstaking dissection of the 1880s' bloodbath that inspired Zane Grey's *To The Last Man* and Earle Forrest's *Arizona's Dark and Bloody Ground*, Herman explores alliances and conflicts among Mormons, Hispanics, Native Americans, merchants, cattle companies, ranchers, sheepmen, and cowboys that spawned violence in the wake of economic depression and the competition for open range. The roots of the bloodshed, he argues, are found in competing notions of honor and conscience. While acknowledging that Don Deder's *A Little War of Our Own* (A Southwest Books of the Year pick in 1987) remains the best and most readable narrative of the Pleasant Valley conflict, Herman performs a huge service by casting his loop wide enough to provide a rich interpretive framework for Arizona's legendary range war and its cousins elsewhere in the West. [Bruce Dinges]

Hidden Life of the Desert

TOP PICK FOR KIDS

By Thomas Wiewandt. Mountain Press Publishing Company. 96 pp. Index. \$15.00.

Arranged in order of the Sonoran Desert's seasons (indeed, not four but five!), this book's lively, interesting text closely corresponds to sharp, vibrant photos. Focusing on plants and animals that thrive during each season, the reader learns about distinct characteristics as well as symbiotic relationships. Wiewandt has done a marvelous expansion of

the first edition of this title. Sadly, however, the depredations that have occurred in the intervening 20 years since the first edition have led the author to include a new section, "Facing the Future," filled with grim descriptions of man's alterations and damage to fragile deserts and their inhabitants. He also includes some resulting conservation efforts. Pronunciations of unusual names and words are helpfully inserted in the text. Inclusion of a glossary, recommended resources, a list of scientific names and an index enhance this new edition, which is an informative and fascinating addition to any school, library or family's bookshelf. [Deborah Bock]

Historical Atlas of the American West: With Original Maps

By Derek Hayes. University of California Press. 288 pp. Index. \$39.95.

In large format, this is an overview of the West that uses maps and other illustrations as the visual attractions to make browsing interesting. [W. David Laird]

Here is a selection of historic maps that honor the history of the west from prehistoric times. These are accompanied by historical vignettes, photographs, and sketches. The author neglected to note that the Oregon and California trails are National Historic Trails and that Philip St. George Cooke and his Mormon Battalion opened the first wagon road to the Pacific. Also missing is Juan Bautista de Anza's 1776 trail out of Tubac, Arizona to found the city of San Francisco. [Patricia Etter]

History Ahead: Stories Beyond the Texas Roadside Markers

By Cynthia J. Beeman, Dan K. Utley. Texas A&M University Press. 317 pp. Index. \$23.00.

This introduction to Texas' massive historical marker program (13,000 and growing) focuses on stories emblematic of the program's objective of identifying and commemorating what the authors describe as "the people's history." Grouped by broad topics (sense of place, famous people who passed through Texas, and nationally known Texans), the book's nineteen essays and two dozen sidebars, accompanied by historic and contemporary photographs and three location maps, provide engaging reading for both the tourist and the armchair traveler. A superb guidebook that leaves readers wanting more, which of course is the point. [Bruce Dinges]

Since the 1960s when the program was initiated, Texans have installed some 13,000 official historical markers around the state. The markers contain a brief description of the historical event that took place at the site. The authors carried out in-depth research on 19 historic markers scattered over Texas and discovered some interesting history of the places, people, institutions, and sites in the areas honored by the markers. Includes maps and photographs. [Patricia Etter]

History of the Ancient Southwest, A

By Stephen H. Lekson. School for Advanced Research Press. 439 pp. Index. \$39.95.

Since the appearance of his first book in 1983, Lekson has published at least 16 additional titles, all of them dealing, in one way or another, with the archaeology of the Southwest. This latest is a magnificent summary of what we now know about our prehistory. Or, perhaps I should rather say what Lekson knows, and speculates, about our prehistory. This volume will not meet with universal approval because each two-part chapter (there are eight of them) tries to describe both the key players (i.e., archaeological interpreters, past and present) and the cultures they interpret and/or argue about. Lekson does not hesitate to name names when analyzing views he sees as sometimes intentionally wrong-headed and, as you might imagine, he has some strong opinions about what is good in the field as well as what is bad. [W. David Laird]

Stephen Lekson is a free-thinker who specializes in archaeology of the Southwest, and he has an opinion on everything. His rendition of human history has a spirited cast to it and you'll learn something on every page, but this is the first book I've ever encountered where the notes were more exciting than the text. For example, his rebuttal to

eminent Chaco authority Gwinn Vivian (pages 340-341) is like watching a sparring match. The notes run for 96 pages, and the bibliography is synoptic. Right or wrong, Lekson makes archaeology riveting. [Bill Broyles]

Hoboes: Bindlestiffs, Fruit Tramps, and the Harvesting of the West

TOP PICK

By Mark Wyman. Hill and Wang. 336 pp. Index. \$28.00.

With railroads came farms—cotton, fruit, grain, vegetables—and those same rails brought cheap labor needed to work those farms. The workers included migrant hoboes, drifters, Native Americans, Chinese, Japanese and Mexicans, whose slogan was not “Westward Ho!” but “Al Norte!” They all struggled against bad bosses, hunger, prejudice and poverty. The story is framed as century-old history, but the issues are as modern as today’s newspaper: immigrant labor that is indispensable, but disposable until the next harvest. [Bill Broyles]

Wyman's fascinating book, rich in sober analysis and lively anecdotal detail, chronicles the relatively unknown story of the army of transient laborers who shouldered the burden of the agricultural boom generated by western railroads and irrigation between 1880 and 1920. Of particular interest to southwestern readers is his discussion of the "cotton West" and the significant contributions of Mexican migrant workers to the economies of Texas, Arizona, and California. Wyman makes a strong case for his view that these indispensable, if often reviled and mistreated, men, women, and children have been unjustly omitted from our pantheon of western heroes. [Bruce Dinges]

Homesteading Along the Creek: Pioneer Life in Cave Creek, Arizona, 1890-1940

By Patrick Grady. Arizona Pioneer Press. 170 pp. \$20.00.

Despite its proximity to Phoenix, the Cave Creek area was until the latter half of the 20th century a rural ranching community. And Grady’s attention, as the subtitle indicates, is on those early years. He provides an excellent summary history, then gives a chapter each to the ten homestead ranches along the creek, from the Linville Ranch west of Black Mountain at the south end to the Cartwright Ranch at Seven Springs. Excellent local history, well-written and with a thorough listing of sources. [W. David Laird]

Hot Pots: Container Gardening in the Arid Southwest

By Scott Calhoun, Lynn Hassler. Rio Nuevo Publishers. 127 pp. Index. \$19.95.

Packed with lots of handsome color photos and good advice, this book should be particularly helpful to recent transplants (might be a pun there) from more moist climates. Short, easy-to-understand paragraphs and many, many helpful headings along with a thorough index make this a snap (dragon, anyone?) to use. [W. David Laird]

This may be the cheeriest book of 2010. Its colorful pictures of potted desert plants and patios are sure to bring you a smile. Two well-spoken experts show you how to select plants and pots, how to prepare soil, how to care for your plants, and even how to attract butterflies and hummingbirds to your doorstep. You’ll want a copy for yourself and a friend. [Bill Broyles]

Hotter 'n Pecos and Other West Texas Lies

By Bobby D. Weaver. Texas Tech University Press. 160 pp. \$19.95.

Not all lies, in the literal sense, the 30-plus vignettes in this wonderful collection are sometimes tall-tales but just as often they explain a piece of life. For example, when the new kid, fired from his first job on an oil well, throws the wrench BACK into the hole, or the rancher, mocking a newcomer, explains that you can tell how hard the wind is blowing by whether or not it bends the crowbar! Good stuff. [W. David Laird]

I Know It's Dangerous: Why Mexicans Risk Their Lives to Cross the Border

By Lynnaire M. Sheridan. University of Arizona Press. 206 pp. Index. \$24.95.

Why do some citizens of Mexico feel justified crossing into the US without papers or permission? This book explains their rationale, those wide-ranging personal reasons that compel some people to defy danger and death to illegally cross an international border. Some of the reasons will surprise you, just as some of the dangers will shock you. The author takes the side of the migrants, but she is factual and insightful. She notes that the US has created an incentive for migrants to take risks, for if they can just sneak past the Border Patrol they seem to be home free (page 22). [Bill Broyles]

Illegal: Life and Death in Arizona's Immigration War Zone

By Terry Greene Sterling. Lyons Press. 241 pp. Index. \$18.95.

Writer in Residence at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, Sterling profiles undocumented immigrants who risked all to cross Arizona's violent border to face hostility and laws that profile them from working, driving, or living in Arizona.

Imaginary Lines: Border Enforcement and the Origins of Undocumented Immigration, 1882-1930

By Patrick Ettinger. University of Texas Press. 216 pp. Index. \$60.00.

America's border policies evolved over the past century and a half, and particularly on its southern border with Mexico, it is still evolving. Patrick Ettinger presents a carefully documented history of changing national policies and needs that have involved sovereignty, commerce, labor, and security. However, lawmakers historically have failed to convince individual people to obey those policies. As a result, argues Ettinger, "An unrealistic border has created unrealistic expectations for an unrealistic and ever more expensive program of border enforcement" (page 176). The book is balanced, thoughtful, and quite readable. [Bill Broyles]

In the Places of the Spirits

By David Grant Noble. School for Advanced Research Press. 164 pp. \$30.00.

The spirits reside in the thousands of prehistoric ruins scattered over the Southwest and shown here in seventy-six dramatic black and white photographs and seem to portray the land's soul.

Indians of Arizona and New Mexico, The: Nineteenth Century Ethnographic Notes of Archbishop John Baptist Salpointe

By , John Baptist Salpointe. Rio Grande Books. \$19.95.

Resident for the last 30 years of his life in Tucson (1868-1898), Salpointe had become fascinated by Native American lifeways years before. The writings presented here, as well as earlier notes, were in the possession of Fray Angelico Chavez who gave them to ethnologist Charles H. Lange for use in his research on the Pueblo Indians. Here they are "pieced together" and published for the first time. The editors have done an excellent job of arranging the somewhat fragmentary pieces, as well as providing brief introductory sections of explanatory background. Salpointe was a man of his time, of course, and had no training in cultural studies, making his observations sometimes derogatory and demeaning of (as well as often totally wrong about) his Native American subjects. [W. David Laird]

John Baptiste Salpointe succeeded Archbishop Lamy of Santa Fe and worked among the tribes of Arizona and New Mexico between 1860 and 1898. In addition to proselytizing among the Native tribes, he set up hospitals and schools,

collected statistics and folk tales and wrote tribal history as he saw it. It has been heavily annotated by the three editors who reorganized the material into more readable form. Unfortunately they took literary license by deleting “gratuitous remarks” along with Salpointe’s “disrespectful comments toward Native people,” which may have left us with a different view of Salpointe’s personality. [Patricia Etter]

Innocent Until Interrogated: the True Story of the Buddhist Temple Massacre and the Tucson Four

By Gary L. Stuart. University of Arizona Press. 360 pp. \$29.95.

This nonfiction account about the incompetence and inhumanity of the team investigating the Phoenix-area Buddhist Temple Massacre almost 20 years ago should be required reading for all American citizens. It’s a page-turner worthy of Grisham, but frightening in that it really happened. Four people, initially pleading innocent, subsequently confessed to crimes they did not commit, all because they were exhausted, brain-washed, sleep-deprived and ignorant of their basic rights. The case is still not settled. One perpetrator got a plea bargain; the other, only seventeen at the time, may have his verdict overturned because of the way the case was handled. The author has done his research, and he’s a great writer. [Margaret Loghry]

Stuart, a Phoenix attorney and author of a previous book on Miranda rights, has sifted through a mountain of police interrogation tapes and court documents to tell the chilling story of the 1991 Buddhist temple massacre and the botched investigation that impeded the apprehension of the true killers (one of whom killed again) and resulted in hefty lawsuits against the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office. Anyone who believes that innocent men don’t confess to crimes they didn’t commit is in for a shock as Stuart exposes the manifest pitfalls of relying on (coerced) confessions to the exclusion of corroborating evidence. [Bruce Dinges]

Inside the Civano Project: a Case Study of Large-Scale Sustainable Neighborhood Development

By Jason A. Laros, C. Alan Nichols. McGraw-Hill. 229 pp. Index. \$69.95.

Architectural pros take you inside the environmentally sustainable neighborhood of your dreams and our future.

Introduction to Grand Canyon Fossils, An

By Dave Thayer. Grand Canyon Association. 63 pp. Index. \$9.95.

Fossils fascinate young and old alike, and here geologist Dave Thayer provides an array of color photos, maps, great metaphors, and detective work to give us a clear, lively account of fossils found in the Grand Canyon of Arizona. Well worth reading. [Bill Broyles]

Iron Wagon, The: a Novel

By Al Lacy, JoAnna Lacy. Multnomah Books. 294 pp. \$13.99.

Escaped bandits, Apaches, and a desperate heroine must face U.S. marshall John “The Stranger” Brockman in this Western fiction trilogy.

Jeremy Jackrabbit Harvests the Rain

By Rodney Glassman, Sasha Glassman. Dandak Publishing. 28 pp. .

This cleverly-rhymed picture book portrays the anthropomorphized desert life of Jeremy Jackrabbit and instructs the reader as Jeremy learns about simple rainwater harvesting techniques. Delightful illustrations by children artists are engaging and appealing to youngsters, and may even encourage some to value their own artwork. Tucsonans are already familiar with one of the authors, Rodney, as a former City Council member and politician. Locals may be less aware that both Rodney and co-author/wife Sasha have backgrounds in land use, conservation and other environmental concerns. [Deborah Bock]

Kid Cyclone Fights the Devil and Other Stories

By Xavier Garza. Pinata Books. 176 pp. \$10.95.

Garza's experiences growing up on the border in Rio Grande City, Texas shape this collection of 14 scary tales in both English and Spanish. There's no doubt that gruesome mythological animals like chupacabra, as well as the classic La Llorona, and others possessed such as devils and witches, have enduring appeal throughout the Hispanic Southwest. By including a pop culture icon, a luche libre wrestler, he just adds to the appeal. Adults might judge many of these stories as uneven, unpolished, or unfinished, but young adults will likely enjoy them since young protagonists and plenty of dialogue create a sense of believability. When engaging young adults who love the thrill of gore and fright, Garza succeeds with plenty of crude stuff. His own simple black and white illustrations convey a wild sense. [Deborah Bock]

Kingman

By Dan W. Messersmith. Arcadia Publishing. 127 pp. \$21.99.

Messersmith has mined the resources of the Mohave Museum of History and Arts selecting more than 200 images to illustrate life in the largest town/city in northwestern Arizona. Beginning in 1882 as a railroad stop, up to the middle of the 20th century as a gateway to Las Vegas, the people, places, and events are detailed in lengthy captions. [W. David Laird]

Knifewing and Rainbow Man in Zuni Jewelry

By Toshio Sei. Schiffer Publishing Ltd.. 144 pp. Index. \$24.99.

This handsome volume has excellent color photos of overlay jewelry featuring the two Zuni figures, Knifewing Man and Rainbow Man. There are more than 200 photographs, clearly reproduced, and each piece is identified by name of the artist, approximate year of production, size (in inches) and an estimate of price/value. The text includes Sei's notes about when and where he acquired the piece as well as biographical information on the artists. Every collection featuring Native American jewelry will need to add this volume! [W. David Laird]

La Calle: Spatial Conflicts and Urban Renewal in a Southwest City

By Lydia R. Otero. University of Arizona Press. 271 pp. Index. \$24.95.

In 1966 voters in Tucson okayed a plan to build a civic center auditorium and plaza by destroying one of the city's oldest neighborhoods. In 2010 the city is still searching for its soul and wondering why downtown is on life-support with taxpayers footing the bill. Lydia Otero explains why, though she's far too gentle in denouncing urban renewal that seemed racist then and now. [Bill Broyles]

Land of Disenchantment: Latina/o Identities and Transformations in Northern New Mexico

By Michael L. Trujillo. University of New Mexico Press. 285 pp. Index. \$29.95.

For Trujillo, an anthropologist with a doctorate from the University of Texas, what started out to be a few months in the Espanola Valley north of Santa Fe turned into a series of research efforts ranging from a few months to more than a year. The result: seven meaty chapters that will be difficult reading for most readers but should provide his colleagues with much to chew on. [W. David Laird]

Last of the Robbers Roost Outlaws: Moab's Bill Tibbetts

By Tom McCourt. Canyonlands Natural History Association. 141 pp. \$14.99.

Tough guy Bill Tibbetts, had run afoul of the law several times for stealing cattle and horses before turning over a new leaf with a fresh start and a new name in New Mexico in 1924. During most his 26 years in Southeastern Utah, he hid out in a vast area of mesas and deep canyons in what is now Canyonlands National Park. Butch Cassidy and his gang were known to hide out at Robbers' Roost in Horsethief Canyon and that is where Bill Tibbetts managed to avoid the law. The author based his story on reminiscences of relatives and newspaper articles which are reproduced exactly as they appeared. Names of places and characters are real but the dialog is pure fiction. Original photographs of Tibbetts and his family are a nice addition as are modern photographs of the grandiose views of the canyonlands area, supposedly by the author. [Patricia Etter]

Lawless Land: a Western Duo

By Les Savage. Five Star. 232 pp. \$25.95.

The "duo" of the subtitle means a long short story, set in East Texas, and a short novel, set in Arizona. Smoothly written with well-drawn characters and a story line that moves right along, the novel, especially, plays on the old theme of inter-racial love (Anglo-Navajo), with a lawyer forced to choose between his political future and justice. [W. David Laird]

Life and Writing of Fray Angélico Chávez, The: A New Mexico Renaissance Man

By Ellen McCracken. University of New Mexico Press. 472 pp. Index. \$45.95.

Chávez, whose life spanned nearly nine decades of the 20th century, was indeed a renaissance man. Hundreds of his stories, poems, works of art, essays and other creations were published, shown and exhibited during his lifetime and will continue to be available for the for-seeable future. This book is remarkably thorough in presenting a picture of a man who knew and interacted with all the major literary and religious figures of New Mexico and the Southwest. What it lacks, I am sorry to say, is a lively sense of the personality of that man, that artist, that writer. [W. David Laird]

The title says it all. The author has exhaustively researched Chavez, documented his life, his writings in 400 pages, plus more than 50 pages of notes. Black and white photographs are interspersed throughout the text. Chavez' accomplishments are amazing, but certain personality characteristics seem at odds with his chosen profession as a Franciscan friar: he seems to have had a problem with authority and was defensive about his minority status in the brotherhood. He pulled strings to avoid a tour of duty in Korea. It seems he was more comfortable writing, researching, and restoring than in his work in the ministry and his decision to retire from the brotherhood was probably appropriate. I would like to have known more about what really made him tick. [Margaret Loghry]

Life of Maynard Dixon, The

TOP PICK

By Maynard Dixon, Donald J. Hagerty. Gibbs Smith. 256 pp. Index. \$30.00.

Born in Central California in 1875, Dixon's residences and studios were usually in northern and southern California, but his heart was in the desert. He often took trips of weeks and months duration to New Mexico, Arizona, the Mojave Desert and down into old Mexico. With well-chosen quotes from Dixon's letters and published writings, Hagerty does

much more than just describe Dixon-the-artist; he gives us the whole man with his flaws and his triumphs, his loves and losses, his growth and change. More than 180 reproductions of sketches, paintings and murals are carefully keyed to the text, which is extremely readable yet provides all the documentation to make this a comprehensive scholarly biography. [W. David Laird]

Even if you don't know the name Maynard Dixon, you'll easily recognize his work, for his paintings, drawings, magazine covers, and murals have become emblems of our Southwest. This biography is rich with his art, making it an excellent introduction. The book has the friendly feeling of an artist's studio and the vigor of the man himself. Family photos, excerpts from letters and Dixon's poems, and many stories bring him to life, and what a life it was. He believed, "The artist's job, as I see it, is to try to widen people's horizons—show them the wonder of the world they live in" (p. 185). To double your fun, add its companion book, *The Art of Maynard Dixon*. [Bill Broyles]

Living Waters of Texas, The

By Ken Kramer, Charles Kruvad. Texas A&M University Press. 164 pp. Index. \$30.00.

With chapters carrying titles like "Hooked on Rivers" and "Falling in Love with Bottomlands" by water experts and conservationists, you'd expect a lyric call for protection of living waters in Texas. You won't be at all disappointed. As the inspiring texts and the gorgeous photos by Charles Kruvad show, the Lone Star State has many wonderful bays, streams, springs, lakes, and rivers worth knowing and protecting. This edition is one of the River Books series sponsored by Texas State University. [Bill Broyles]

Lonely Polygamist, The: a Novel

TOP PICK

By Brady Udall. W.W. Norton. 602 pp. \$26.95.

Brady Udall doesn't shy away from the big questions. In this sprawling novel set in southern Nevada and Utah's Dixie, the author of the acclaimed *The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint* (A Southwest Books of the Year pick in 2001) explores the expansive boundaries of love, the redemptive qualities of grief, and the ineffable comforts of family ties. Golden Richards, a Mormon patriarch haunted by the death of a daughter and beset on all sides by feuding wives and two dozen children, experiences an existential crisis when he falls for the wife of a Las Vegas brothel owner and is confronted by the death of a rebellious son. Writing with his characteristic blend of rollicking humor and gut-wrenching tragedy, Udall paints a memorable portrait of longing and salvation in a world that is at once utterly foreign and achingly familiar. [Bruce Dinges]

Polygamist Golden Richards' life is clearly not golden. His four wives bicker, his 28 children are hungry for attention, he's in desperate financial straits, his construction job out of town is behind schedule; his boss is a low-life; and he's hankering for the boss' seductive wife. I wanted to hate this whole scene, but somehow Udall got me hooked on these comic-tragic Dickensian characters and outrageous plot sequences. Many of these characters are victims of abuse or ignorance and while I wanted to shake them, I grew to respect and empathize with them, warts and all. [Margaret Loghry]

Los Chilitos=The Little Chile Peppers

By Viola Pena. Rio Grande Books. 48 pp. \$16.95.

This whimsical tale captures the cycles in a New Mexico chile crop and the variety of uses for these flavorful chiles that grow there. Chiles come to life as quirky characters who speculate the varied possibilities of their fates. But what is the fate of those hopeful chiles not picked at harvest? This bilingual, comically illustrated picture book will appeal to "chiliheads" young and old. This simple picture book comes from a regional publisher who features regional authors. [Deborah Bock]

Lost Homelands: Ruin and Reconstruction in the 20th-Century Southwest

By Audrey Goodman. University of Arizona Press. 241 pp. Index. \$50.00.

An exploration into how events of the 20th century adversely affected the Southwest and its inhabitants, who still managed to create a sense of community despite these influences.

Luis Ortega's Rawhide Artistry: Braiding in the California Tradition

By Don Reeves, Chuck Stormes. University of Oklahoma Press. 160 pp. Index. \$29.95.

Vaquero and craftsman Luis Ortega took braiding rawhide and horsehair to high art as is shown in stunning photos of cowboy lariats, quirts, and trappings. The story is primarily Southern California, but many in the Southwest will appreciate this utilitarian heritage. The book is impeccably designed and the biography of Sr. Ortega is rewarding. [Bill Broyles]

Making a Killing: Femicide, Free Trade, and La Frontera

By Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Georgina Guzmán. University of Texas Press. 314 pp. Index. \$24.95.

Fourteen essays range across topics such as the murders in Ciudad Juarez, deaths in the maquiladoras, and lost/missing children along the border. [W. David Laird]

Making of Modern Nevada, The

By Hal Rothman. University of Nevada Press. 176 pp. Index. \$21.95.

This third book to be published after Rothman's death at age 48 reminds us once again of the breadth of his understanding of the history and culture of Nevada and the American West. With carefully chosen examples he presents the State's development in eight chapters, from Mountain Men to the opening of the Mirage Hotel and Casino on The Strip in 1989. As he saw it, this latter event was the herald of a new beginning for the city and state. [W. David Laird]

Manhattan Project to the Santa Fe Institute: the Memoirs of George A. Cowan

By G.A. Cowan. University of New Mexico Press. 184 pp. Index. \$27.95.

Now 90 years of age, Cowan remembers for us both how his early connections with atomic physics were made and where he was as the various steps toward nuclear fission were taken. His avowed purpose is to entice new minds to enter the field of study which he sees as limitless in its possibilities. This is not a book about geography or culture (except perhaps the culture of science) so readers should not expect, nor will they find, those elements playing a large part in Cowan's narrative. [W. David Laird]

Marshall Explores Arizona

By Angela Kirschner, William Kirschner. Exploring Eagle Press. \$15.95.

First in a series of the 50 states, this book introduces us to Marshall, a bald eagle, who serves as the reader's tour guide. Detailed and colorful art complements the well-rhymed text. However, several images, each depicting a different locale, merge seamlessly into one large illustration on many pages which could be confusing or misleading to a youngster in terms of true geographic relationship of the features depicted. Marshall encourages the reader to play "I Spy" and look for a particular animal on each page. Fact-filled columns on many pages add more specific information. [Deborah Bock]

Mata Ortiz Pottery Today

By Guy Berger. Schiffer Publishing Ltd.. 176 pp. Index. \$49.99.

Berger's connection to Native American and regional craft arts is multi-generational. He presently owns a trading company in Albuquerque, and his knowledge of the breadth and depth of Mata Ortiz (the Casas Grandes area of Chihuahua) pottery is thoroughly demonstrated in this visually stunning book. More than 200 beautiful ceramic items are illustrated in color, many of them filling a single page of this large-format book. Seven brief texts introduce chapters on color, special shapes, miniatures, and etched types. One chapter points to the similarities between Mata Ortiz and its northern neighbor in New Mexico, Acoma Pueblo. [W. David Laird]

Men of Color to Arms!: Black Soldiers, Indian Wars, and the Quest for Equality

By Elizabeth D. Leonard. W.W. Norton & Co.. 315 pp. Index. \$27.95.

In this anecdote-rich book, Leonard explores the African American military experience against the backdrop of the national debate over racial policy toward blacks and Native Americans. In doing so, she provides important context for the many detailed, but typically more narrowly focused, studies of African Americans at West Point and buffalo soldiers on the western frontier. [Bruce Dinges]

Mining Archaeology in the American West: a View From the Silver State

By Donald L. Hardesty. University of Nebraska Press. 240 pp. Index. \$45.00.

Not for casual reading, this technically-inclined volume has nearly 140 illustrations, figures, and tables. It describes in some detail the mining operations in Nevada beginning in the late 19th century and describes such terms as cyanide leaching, pan amalgamation, beneficiation, etc. [W. David Laird]

Moctezuma's Table: Rolando Briseño's Mexican and Chicano Tablescapes

TOP PICK

By Rolando Briseño, Norma Elia Cantú. Texas A&M University Press. 174 pp. Index. \$42.00.

"Tablescapes" may not be a word familiar to all readers. It means art of a special kind as Briseneno, using acrylics and other colorful media, paints on napkins, tablecloths, dish towels and, occasionally, on other surfaces. The images themselves almost always relate to food, such as a three-dimensional rendering of the Alamo in corn dough. Fourteen essays explain, or at least comment upon, Briseneno's art, and often on the social-construct of the endeavor as well: what in the world is Briseneno up to anyway? A concluding chapter, edited from a lengthy interview of the artist by Cary Cordova, is titled simply "Epilogue–Rolando Briseneno: An Artist's Life." Every book collection dealing in any manner with contemporary art must own this lavishly illustrated volume. [W. David Laird]

Rolando Briseneno, a contemporary Chicano artist born in San Antonio, gives a whole new definition to table artistry. This lavishly illustrated book shows the breadth of his work. Interpretive essays enhance understanding. Briseneno's subject matter is food and its presentation; the food represented is Precolumbian, Mexican, and Tex Mex, often in a single work of art. Not only does he use table dressing such as cloths, towels and napkins as his canvases, he actually mixes traditional foods such as masa, chocolate, or peppers with the paint or alone for sculptures. It would be a treat to view his work firsthand, but this book is the next best thing, with the added bonuses of helpful essays and an interview with the artist. [Margaret Loghry]

More Spooky Texas Tales

By Doc Moore, Tim Tingle. Texas Tech University Press. 104 pp. \$18.95.

While some of the tales recounted in this collection recount new versions of Southwest classics such as La Llorona, Navajo skinwalkers, chupacabras, and owl witches, others are Texas-set versions of standards like the Monkey's Paw and Mary Culhane. Charming and believable are featured in these chillers with just enough gore and fright to tingle young spines. Clever, but not gruesome, black and white sketches appropriately enhance the text for a young audience. [Deborah Bock]

Mr. Mendoza's Paintbrush

By Luis Alberto Urrea. Cinco Puntos Press, Inc. 64 pp. \$17.95.

In a parable, of sorts, Urrea narrates a time in his youth when he and his friend Jaime saw Mr. Mendoza as a kind of all-knowing saint. For example, catching the boys spying on a naked woman, Mendoza tackles them, takes away their clothes, and paints slogans on their bodies announcing their sins. Identifying himself as "El Rey de Graffiti de Todo Mexico" Mendoza eventually defies burial in the local church by painting himself a stairway to heaven. Cardinale's "graphic comic" illustrations perfectly document the Urrea text. [W. David Laird]

Murder City: Ciudad Juarez and the Global Economy's New Killing Fields

TOP PICK

By Charles Bowden. Nation Books. 320 pp. \$27.50.

Bowden's killing fields are those city streets, back alleys, buildings, farm-fields, and anywhere else that drugs and money are exchanged in large quantities. But he's been concentrating on that huge Mexican city across the river/border from El Paso where the murder rate has accelerated beyond belief. Bowden's style in this book, with its on-the-spot interviews, newspaper obituaries, and staccato paragraphs will remind some readers of the hard-hitting pieces he wrote when he was editor of Tucson's City Magazine. The reader has no time to recover from visions of decapitated bodies and de-bodied heads before being plunged into the next ugliness! This a truly powerful presentation of what modern life is like at a major crossing point between the U. S. and Mexico. [W. David Laird]

This should be required reading, not because it has answers, but because it graphically lays out the reality of crime, fear, and corruption in Juarez, unforgettably. Reading it is like being pounded by an AK-47, with short staccato sentences assaulting the reader with mounting death and mayhem. One of the memorable interviews is with a former professional killer, now in hiding, who details his journey from bright kid trained by CIA to honest cop to hit man. Even though now reformed he has a sense of pride in his skill as an assassin. This book is painful but important. [Margaret Loghry]

Murder in the Air

By Bill Crider. Thomas Dunne Books. 258 pp. \$24.99.

This is the 17th Dan Rhodes novel. In Crider's Blacklin County (don't look it up, there is no such county in Texas) something is always going on and murder is in the mix. This time out one of the county commissioners wants the sheriff to buy an M-16 for the firepower (it'll blow a hole in a tank) and someone murders the owner of the local chicken farm, perhaps because they are tired of the noise and smell (take note of the title), which sheriff Rhodes cannot, of course, do anything about! [W. David Laird]

N. Scott Momaday: Remembering Ancestors, Earth, and Traditions: an Annotated Bio-Bibliography

By Phyllis S. Morgan. University of Oklahoma Press. 400 pp. Index. \$60.00.

If you are bibliographically oriented you will love this book, even if you don't know who Momaday is (unlikely) or don't realize that nearly 25 years of his literary career have been spent at the University of Arizona. If you (including, of

course, libraries and librarians) know and appreciate, and perhaps collect, N. Scott Momaday's novels, poems, autobiographical writings and essays, this book will be an essential addition to your library. Morgan provides 60 pages of biography and chronology before launching into a listing of more than 1,875 annotated entries. The total includes 780 entries for works by Momaday (including such things as published interviews, forewords, afterwords, etc.,(the remainder, nearly 1300 items are critiques, reviews, biographies, and such). A bibliographical tour de force. [W. David Laird]

Natalie Curtis Burlin: a Life in Native and African American Music

By Michelle Wick Patterson. University of Nebraska Press. 402 pp. Index. \$45.00.

Curtis grew up in educated affluence in NYC and was trained in classical music, but switched gears after being mesmerized by a Hopi song while visiting the Southwest in the early 1900s. It became her mission to interpret and promote Native American music to others as a remedy for the ennui caused by industrialism. She later did the same for African American music. She married "modern" artist Paul Burlin in 1917 and the couple moved to Paris in 1921, following the "return to normalcy" movement following WWI. She died after being run down after stepping off a streetcar the same year. This book is important as the first full length biography of a strong talented woman who contributed greatly to the interpretation of ethnic music. The Indians' Book is still in print. [Margaret Loghry]

Native American Art

By Heather Hole, Pamela A. Parmal, Michael Suing, Jennifer Swope, Gerald W. R. Ward. Museum of Fine Arts Boston. 192 pp. Index. \$20.95.

This lavishly illustrated, reasonably priced book is part of MFA Highlights, a series whose purpose is to make the art collections of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts accessible and affordable to the general public. This volume focuses on Native American art in the U.S., historic and contemporary; the Southwest is amply represented. The illustrations are large and colorful. The explanations are on the same page as the photos and clearly refer to the object discussed. The purpose is clearly achieved. [Margaret Loghry]

Navajo

By Jake Page, Susanne Page. Rio Nuevo Publishers. 200 pp. \$24.95.

The cover is different and the preface and last chapters may be somewhat changed but this is basically the same as the 1995 edition. The authors, admittedly outsiders but invited to produce this work, explain Navajo beliefs, history, and ceremonies through text and crisp colored photographs of people, landscapes, and artifacts. The photographs are eye-catching and the explanations are easily understood. This is a good primer on Navajo culture. [Margaret Loghry]

Never-Ending-Snake: an Ella Clah Novel

By Aimee Thurlo, David Thurlo. Forge. 384 pp. \$24.99.

This might be company for a long airplane ride. It's the sixteenth (count 'em) mystery/procedural featuring the female special officer of the Navajo Tribal Police force. A shootout at the Shiprock airport greets Clah returning from Washington, DC where she is being courted to join a special police task force. As the story unfolds we have a satchel full of money that was being carried by a well-decorated Navajo soldier. Another passenger is tribal attorney Kevin Tolino who is investigating the management of the tribal casino! It's difficult to figure out who the shooters were trying to kill, and there are many possibilities. Good company for a long airplane ride. [W. David Laird]

New Deal Art in Arizona

By Betsy Fahlman. University of Arizona Press. 240 pp. Index. \$49.95.

The New Deal was formed during the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt to provide relief during the Great Depression by establishing a number of work programs. The Federal Art Program brought a group of artists to Arizona, among them, photographers Dorothea Lange and Russell Lee; muralists Gerald Nailor and Lew Davis; and sculptors Robert Kittredge and Emry Kopta. Many works were created in public buildings, including Post Offices and a number survive today. The author discusses how each was created. The book is heavily illustrated and Fahlman expertly interprets each photograph and how it fits into Arizona's historic record during the New Deal period. A very good read. [Patricia Etter]

The Great Depression did bring some good and lasting things to Arizona: CCC buildings and New Deal artwork that captures those times and portrays Arizona's soul. Photographers such as Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Ben Gaha, and Russell Lee; muralists like Lew Davis and Lon Megargee; painters such as Maynard Dixon; and sculptors Emry Kopta and Raymond Phillips Sanderson each gave us lasting art and appreciation of the times and the state. This well-told book beats with a human heart and the images are indelible. [Bill Broyles]

New Mexico's Finest: Peace Officers Killed in the Line of Duty, 1847-2010

By Don Bullis. Río Grande Books. 350 pp. Index. \$19.95.

This fourth edition of biographical sketches updates Bullis's listing and includes the three officers killed in 2009. [W. David Laird]

Not Just New Mexico's Senator: Pete V. Domenici's Leadership on Four Issues Affecting Our Nation's Future

By Martin Janowski. Rio Grande Books. 107 pp. \$17.95.

A closer look at Pete Domenici, focusing on his leadership while senator of New Mexico.

Nothing Happened and Then It Did: A Chronicle in Fact and Fiction

By Jake Silverstein. W. W. Norton & Company. 256 pp. \$23.95.

Silverstein puts a clever spin on the fictionalized memoir debate in his debut novel set mainly in West Texas and northern Mexico. In alternating chapters labeled "fact" and "fiction," he chronicles the adventures of Jake Silverstein, a struggling journalist on the trail of Ambrose Bierce's grave, Jean Lafitte's pirate treasure, a famous poets' contest, a Mexican road race, a south-of-the-border McDonald's franchise, and a populist politician known as Rey de las Tarimas (the palette king). It's great fun as Silverstein makes a serious point about what's real and what's true. [Bruce Dinges]

Odd Man Out: an Autobiography: True Stories of a Gay Black Swimmer

By Jeff Commings. CreateSpace. 209 pp. \$20.00.

Co-founder of Arizona's Dolphins of the Desert swimming school, Commings is both black and gay. [W. David Laird]

On Deadly Ground: A Greek Mystery

By Michael Norman. Poisoned Pen Press. 278 pp. \$24.95.

This deadly ground is in and around Kanab, Utah, where BLM ranger J. D. Books is thrust into a murder investigation. The dead man is a devoted environmentalist whose efforts to preserve the lands of southern Utah and northern Arizona have earned him many enemies, including a Las Vegas, Nevada, conglomerate with mineral rights in Escalante National Monument. Then there is the fact that the dead man's wife has been having an affair with another environmentalist, and of course there are powerful ranching interests who need that open range for their cattle! Norman is good with dialogue and moves the story along without a hitch. [W. David Laird]

Hero J.D. Books is back in Kanab, his birthplace, as a Law Enforcement Ranger after being disciplined off the police force in Denver. Kanab is a powderkeg with environmentalists and ranchers facing off, united only in their mutual dislike of the feds. When an environmentalist is killed Books becomes involved, eventually solving the case. This is fast paced, okay as escape reading, but tries to cover too much ground and stretches the limits of credibility with stereotypical ranchers, Mormons, environmentalists, miners, a dense sheriff, a hit man with a heart, a rogue cop, multiple secret affairs, a love interest instantly rekindled after twenty years, and community mistreatment of the mentally disabled. [Margaret Loghry]

On the Outskirts of Normal: Forging a Family Against the Grain

By Debra Monroe. Southern Methodist University Press. 248 pp. \$22.50.

Author of published books, two novels and two collections of stories, Monroe gives us an exciting account of her life so far. After two failed marriages and miscarriages she found herself living alone in a small town 50 miles from where she was teaching at a university in south central Texas. When she adopted a child (the girl is black, she's white) she suddenly found she had to be color-blind! This a raucous, readable memoir filled with insights about human foibles, and joys, and love. [W. David Laird]

One Day the Wind Changed: Stories

By Tracy Daugherty. Southern Methodist University Press. 208 pp. \$22.50.

The achingly rendered desert landscape is a palpable presence in this collection of stories set mainly in Oklahoma, West Texas, New Mexico, Nevada at the time the world came unhinged in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing and 9/11. Daugherty forces readers to sit up and pay heed as his finely drawn characters wrestle with loneliness and search for connections in open spaces and on city streets. A challenging and completely satisfying read. [Bruce Dinges]

One Nation, One Year

By Karyth Becenti. Rio Grande Books. 128 pp. \$24.99.

Photographer James, a staffer at Albuquerque, The Magazine and member of the Navajo Nation, spent a year (February to February, 2008-2009) traveling throughout the huge Navajo Reservation with camera in-hand. The result of his hundreds (no doubt) of rolls of film is presented here in monthly segments of glorious color. This is not high-image art photography but true representation of the modern Rez. He concludes with a panorama of more than 60 hogans, mostly traditional, 8-sided structures; there's even a dog-size version. Wonderful browse! [W. David Laird]

Don James, a photographer with Albuquerque Magazine, set out in February 2008 for a year of travel over the 26,000-square-mile Navajo reservation with the goal of photographing the people as they carried out daily routines whether it be sheep shearing, rodeos, beauty contests, music, art, and more. He ended up with some 105,000 color images that show the wonderful blending of the old and new. One particularly interesting segment is how a group of men created a golf course from weed choked terrain. [Patricia Etter]

Ópatas, The: in Search of a Sonoran People

By David Yetman. University of Arizona Press. 339 pp. Index. \$39.95.

Four centuries ago when the Spaniards came to Mexico the Opatas were the largest indigenous group in Sonora, but today few descendants claim that lineage. What happened and where did they go? Sleuth David Yetman searches the countryside and archives to track them down. The hunt is a maze of twists and turns, making the book as good as any detective story. His first-rate scholarship fills a void in our understanding not only the fate of these people, but also how people respond to "civilization". [Bill Broyles]

Open Range: The Life of Agnes Morley Cleaveland

By Darlis Miller. University of Oklahoma Press. 192 pp. Index. \$24.95.

Cleaveland has long deserved a biography, and Miller admirably accomplishes the task in this evocative study of the club woman, political activist, and writer whose "No Life for a Lady" is a classic account of western ranching. In recounting Cleaveland's busy and productive career, Miller has fashioned an engaging portrait of a feisty and independent woman who embraced life at full tilt and gathered around her a circle of committed family and friends that included the artist Maynard Dixon, fellow writers Eugene Manlove Rhodes and Conrad Richter, and First Lady Lou Hoover. Like other titles in the OU Press's Western Biographies Series, this book will appeal to general readers as well as scholars. [Bruce Dinges]

Opening Zion: a Scrapbook of the National Park's First Official Tourists

By John Clark, Melissa Clark. Bonneville Books / University of Utah Press. 97 pp. \$19.95.

Before the gates to Zion Canyon opened in May 1920 (they had been closed for the winter the previous November and while closed, the canyon had been officially renamed Zion National Park) the Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad arranged for a group of 6 young women to spend time in the Park while publicity photos were shot. When this "photo-op" was finished after seven days, the young women walked to the front gate and swung it open without fanfare! The Clarks fill their book with dozens of these photos and provide the text to explain the action and identify the young women. [W. David Laird]

Our White Boy

By Jerry Craft, Kathleen Sullivan. Texas Tech University Press. 272 pp. Index. \$29.95.

Jerry Craft, currently a Texas rancher, businessman and politician, spent the summers of 1959 and 1960 as the only white on an all-Black baseball team in the West Texas Colored League. He was invited to play because they needed a strong pitcher, but it took time to build trust. This was a life-changing experience for him, as his eyes were opened to injustices and inequities of which he had been unaware. The book holds interest for its firsthand account of baseball, race relations in Texas, the turbulent times, and the message of teamwork. [Margaret Loghry]

Pachucas and Pachucos in Tucson: Situated Border Lives

By Laura Cummings. University of Arizona Press. 234 pp. Index. \$34.95.

In the course of more than a decade (1980s-1990s) Cummings interviewed the 19 persons identified here only by their first names. A few of the interviewees were born in the 1920s, hence were in their teens and early twenties when the Pachuco "craze" boomed just after WWII, and most of them were born in Tucson. This is an interesting analysis of a very special aspect of southwestern/border culture. [W. David Laird]

Painted Light

By Kate Breakey. University of Texas Press. 126 pp. \$65.00.

This large format retrospective of artist Kate Breakey's work includes full color plates from nine different suites. Breakey first photographs an object, perhaps a piece of fruit, a dead animal, or cactus; then she uses colored pencil and oil paint to bring the object to life and create the backdrop. The author highlights events of her life which influence her painting and helps explain the reverence which comes through in her paintings. It's a beautiful book. [Margaret Loghry]

Perfectly Amanda, Gunsmoke's Miss Kitty: To Dodge and Beyond

By Beckey Burgoyne. Five Star Publications, Inc. 281 pp. Index. \$29.95.

If you adored Amanda Blake – and many still do – you'll devour this compilation of stories, anecdotes, and photos from her illustrious career, which included 20 years as Miss Kitty in the cast of the TV Western Gunsmoke. She was much more than just an actress playing a saloon madam. Many viewers probably never knew that she worked assiduously on the behalf of animals and civic charities. [Bill Broyles]

Peyote Road, The: Religious Freedom and the Native American Church

By Thomas C. Maroukis. University of Oklahoma Press. 272 pp. Index. \$29.95.

Peyote (*Lophophora williamsii*) grows wild in the limestone soils of four southwest Texas counties, mainly on privately-owned land. Peyoteros (those who collect the peyote buttons) must be licensed and are the source of the only legal supply. Although the peyote buds contain mescaline, studies show it is not considered addictive. However, only those who belong to the Native American Church, and who have a blood quantum not less than 25 percent are legally allowed to use peyote as a sacrament. The author's well-written and interesting narrative includes the early history and beginnings of peyote use, how it developed into the Native American Church, and the individuals important in its promotion (Quanah Parker, for example, plays a major role). Since peyote cannot be cultivated, one might ask if the supply will keep up with future demand. [Patricia Etter]

Pima Road Notebook: Poems

By Keith Ekiss. New Issues Poetry & Prose. 73 pp. \$15.00.

A series of poems about the deserts in and around Phoenix and Tucson.

Pio Pico: the Last Governor of Mexican California

By Carlos Manuel Salomon. University of Oklahoma Press. 256 pp. Index. \$24.95.

Pío de Jesus Pico, twice governor of Mexican California, spent the last 48 years of his long life under the American regime, one that he fought hard to prevent. Nevertheless, he became an American citizen and one of the wealthiest landowners in the state. Over the years he made many bad decisions and was embroiled in at least fifteen recorded lawsuits in an attempt to keep his holdings. His incredible drive to succeed, his stubbornness, and his innocence may have been his downfall since in the end he lost all and died penniless. He is not forgotten. During Cinco de Mayo celebrations in 2001, his building, the Pico House, in the old Los Angeles plaza had been restored and celebrants gathered to honor the old hotel as a state historic landmark. [Patricia Etter]

Pioneering People on a Corridor of Change

By Marana Heritage Conservancy . Marana Heritage Conservancy. 32 pp. .

Handsome, large-format presentation of the town of Marana briefly covering its beginnings (with prehistory of the area) and concluding with a golf course and a cowboy! [W. David Laird]

Pot Thief Who Studied Ptolemy, The

By J. Michael Orenduff. Oak Tree Press. 237 pp. \$14.95.

Hubert Schuze owns a shop in Albuquerque which sells Native American artifacts. The trouble is, as he himself tells us, they are stolen (he excavates them at night from public lands), but his rationale is that all citizens own public land so they are at least partly his! Filled with puns and other forms of low humor, Orenduff's tale is of Hubie's attempt to re-steal (they were previously stolen by a museum curator) religiously significant pots from the 15th floor of a downtown apartment building. Readers who like their mysteries told with (sometimes slapstick) humor will enjoy Hubie's account. [W. David Laird]

Prehistory, Personality and Place: Emil W. Haury and the Mogollon Controversy

By J. Jefferson Reid, Stephanie Whittlesey. University of Arizona Press. Index. \$19.95.

The Mogollon culture is now recognized as a separate entity, rather than just a branch of another culture, by most members of the archaeological community. The academic dispute over its status was strenuous and lasted several decades in the middle of the 20th century. Reid and Whittlesey explain it all in jargon-free, readable prose, providing anyone with an interest in southwestern prehistory a clear understanding of the problem, the players, and the resolution. [W. David Laird]

You'll devour this book by two eminent archaeologists who, like you, love the thrill of discovery. They explain how professionals dug ruins in eastern Arizona and came to call their makers the Mogollon people. The pace is fast as Reid and Whittlesey eloquently recount the roar of a scholarly debate that pitted the University of Arizona's Emil Haury against some of his mentors and close friends at Harvard; it became East vs. West, old institution vs. upstarts. At its heart, this is a book about how the Southwest affects people and how Haury's gentlemanly debate guided a civil conclusion. [Bill Broyles]

Queen of the Night

By Judith A. Jance. William Morrow. 358 pp. \$25.99.

Ghosts from the past haunt this fourth installment in Jance's series of thrillers set on the Tohono O'odham Nation south and west of Tucson. A 1959 cold case and unrelated modern-day serial murders set in motion the plot involving characters from her previous books. Detective work quickly takes a back seat as Jance focuses her considerable storytelling talents on an appealing cast of characters, family relationships, and cross-cultural understanding. The title refers to the Tohono O'odham celebration of the night-blooming cereus plant. [Bruce Dinges]

Ranger Confidential: Living, Working, and Dying in the National Parks

By Andrea Lankford. Globe Pequot Press. 245 pp. Index. \$16.95.

From the maddening to the grisly to the funny to the dumb, former national park ranger Andrea Lankford saw it all at Yosemite and Grand Canyon national parks. Now she tells all in a sardonic, unflattering look at the job of rescuing tourists and arresting criminals. The author was overworked and underpaid, and she's still angry. [Bill Broyles]

Rattlesnake Rules

By Conrad J. Storad. Five Star Publications. 340 pp. \$16.95.

Thankfully, award-winning science author Storaasli teams up once again with illustrator Jenson to delight younger readers with another funny yet informative story about another Southwest critter. In rhyme and vibrant color, we learn the rules young rattlesnakes “learn” for hunting, eating and warning; conversely, there are even a few rules for humans to observe. This short rhymed tale concludes with four pages of interesting facts about rattlesnakes and another four pages of “curriculum guide.” Though perhaps not as hilarious as the duos’ prior tales about the desert tortoise, armadillo, and packrat, “Rattlesnake Rules” still charms and informs. [Deborah Bock]

Remembering Phoenix

By Eduardo Pagan. Trade Paper Press. 144 pp. \$16.95.

A collection of remarkable black-and-white photographs on the development of Phoenix, Arizona that provides an historical retrospective on this unique desert community.

Revenge of the Saguaro: Offbeat Travels Through America's Southwest

By Tom Miller. Cinco Puntos Press. 234 pp. Index. \$14.95.

Except for the title and a shuffling of the order of the chapters, a virtually unchanged reprint of the 1993 original titled Jack Ruby's Kitchen Sink, with an index added! [W. David Laird]

Risen Horse, The

By Karen Taschek. University of New Mexico Press. 248 pp. \$15.95.

Although this historical fiction for young adults is set mostly in Pennsylvania at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School rather than the Southwest, the beginning and end take place on the Apache reservation in New Mexico. Isabel is a young woman whose mother recently passed away and is sent away to this school by her grief-stricken father with the hope of a better life than the reservation grimly offered in the early 1900s. The author incorporates many historical details and lifestyle relative to this famous Indian boarding school. Isabel's involvement with horses, both at home and when living with a Pennsylvania farm family as part of the school's "outing program," will likely be what captivates readers. [Deborah Bock]

Rival Rails: the Race to Build America's Greatest Transcontinental Railroad

By Walter R. Borneman. Random House. 388 pp. Index. \$28.00.

Almost as soon as the Central Pacific and Union Pacific joined at Promontory, Utah in 1869, the Big Four- Charles Crocker, Henry Huntington, Mark Hopkins, and Leland Stanford were joined by Jay Gould and other prominent railroaders to set sights on a second transcontinental railway. This time, they turned their eyes south and competition for new lines began anew. It took just 39 years and the winner, Atchinson Topeka & Santa Fe, ultimately became the favored route to California. In the meantime, the competition between lines was tough and nasty. In spite of politics, money, and personalities, the job got done. The story doesn't end here. Fred Harvey, restaurateur, introduced fine food and impeccable service that made the AT&SF a favorite among travelers eager to see the wonders of the West. Eventually the story comes to an end with the introduction of air travel, and a ride on the elegant rails was left to the history books. [Patricia Etter]

Railroad books can lose themselves in the minutiae of railroading, but this fine book balances big picture analysis with fun storytelling to give us a rousing history of the role that the transcontinental railroad system played in the settlement of America. Whether telling the adventures of Bat Masterson, the theft of the Colton “frog,” the ingenuity of the Belen cutoff, or the lure of the Harvey Houses, Borneman's pace is crisp and entertaining. Excellent maps complement the text, which is bolstered by copious notes. The Southwest is prominently featured. [Bill Broyles]

Road from Frijoles Canyon, The: Anthropological Adventures on Four Continents

By William Yewdale Adams. University of New Mexico Press. 371 pp. \$45.00.

Adam's first and only visit to Frijoles Canyon was in 1927, when he was eight years old and the memory fueled his determination to be an "Indianologist." Thus his long road led him to Berkeley, Stanford, and ultimately the University of Arizona, where he obtained his PhD. Later roads took him to the Navajo Nation, the Sudan, and visiting lectureships in China, Kazakhstan, Germany, England and eventually a teaching position in the University of Kentucky. His sojourn on the Navajo reservation as a trader and livestock drive foreman is of Arizona interest. It is not indexed. [Patricia Etter]

The author's name and his published work in the Southwest will be known to readers of anthropological literature. His 1963 study of a Navajo community, Shonto, was ground-breaking work in its field. This memoir (he is now 83) gives full-measure to his 15 years in our territory and tells us of his decades of work in Sudan, Nubia and other desert climes. [W. David Laird]

Roy and Lillie: a Love Story

By Loren D. Estleman. Forge. 272 pp. \$24.99.

Estleman burnishes his reputation as a master storyteller with this entertaining historical novel describing the parallel lives of the self-styled "Law West of the Pecos" and the English beauty who captured his heart. The fact that the two never met, and that whatever correspondence passed between them has failed to survive, is a novelist's dream, allowing Estleman to draw on his fertile imagination to tell a story of celebrity and fame that might have been torn from the pages of today's tabloids. Bean biographer and one-time SWBOY panelist C. L. Sonnichsen is graciously acknowledged in the dedication. Sonnichsen, who delighted in a good story well told, would have enjoyed this lively book. [Bruce Dinges]

Santa Fe Edge

By Stuart Woods. G.P. Putnam's Sons. 289 pp. \$25.95.

Ed Eagle, Santa Fe attorney, is the assassination target of a vindictive former wife, who has escaped from a Mexican jail with the aid of movie producer Jim Long; professional golfer Tip Hanks, Ed's client, is accused of murdering his wife; Todd Bacon, CIA, is trailing supposedly dead Teddy Fay, former CIA. These many plots and subplots, which cover kinky sex and many locales, make for a fast-paced but unsatisfying mystery, since the plots don't really come together and the bad guys escape, probably so the reader will pick up the next installment by this prolific author. [Margaret Loghry]

Santa Fe House, The: Historic Residences, Enchanting Adobes, and Romantic Revivals

By Margaret Moore Booker. Rizzoli International Publications. 246 pp. Index. \$50.00.

Hundreds of color photos support chapters covering Santa Fe houses from a chronological perspective. Within each historical period one or more houses are highlighted and details of their history recounted. Some houses are shown in very early photos, black and white of course, with a contemporary photo for comparison. The text is a detailed historical survey of the seven periods covered showing Booker's thorough research. Fine book. [W. David Laird]

Santa Fe Nativa: a Collection of Nuevomexicano Writing

TOP PICK

By Enrique R. Laladrid. University of New Mexico Press. 244 pp. \$29.95.

Here are wonderful Santa Fe stories written through the ages. They celebrate the city's 400th year and honor its contribution to the foundations of Nuevomexicano culture, with themes that include observations of change over

time, lament for the past, and traditions that have stood the test of time. More than 30 authors contributed stories in English and in Spanish that range from a curandera's recipe for a lovelorn ex-husband to the romance of the chili pepper, with many delightful stops in between. [Patricia Etter]

This extraordinary compendium of literary writings from 1630 on promotes the theme that the blending of Hispanic and Native Americans has created the unique historical, artistic and cultural center Santa Fe is today. Selections are chosen to share history, creativity, and diversity, all with Santa Fe as the heart, the metaphor for what New Mexico stands for, as opposed to what modern Santa Fe with its upscale galleries and restaurants represents. The "nuevomexicanos" have been left out of the equation and these writings help to set the record straight. This collection is superb with its organization around love for the city, history, neighborhoods, and enduring traditions. Included are 38 short biographies of contributors, editor and the photographer [Margaret Loghry]

Shade: A Story about a Very Smart Raven

By Diane Phelps Budden. Red Rock Mountain Press, LLC. 32 pp. \$9.95.

For anyone who admires ravens and their intellect, this is a interesting read to share with young children, since the story is based on the real-life training of a raven in Tucson equipped with a GPS tracker. When Shade notices a man wandering alone in the desert, he suspects something is amiss and returns to alert his owner/trainer. Unfortunately, the pen and ink drawings are less captivating and colorful than those typically found in picture books. [Deborah Bock]

Shoes for the Santo Niño = Zapillos Para el Santo Niño: a Bilingual Tale

By Peggy Pond Church. Río Grande Books. 61 pp. \$19.95.

Adults familiar with Southwest literature may recognize the author's name: Peggy Pond Church was a New Mexico author and poet who wrote the classic *Woman at Otowi Bridge*. This quaint, sweet version of a popular religious folk tale within Hispanic tradition is enhanced with color paintings which evoke traditional Hispanic folk art of New Mexico are by Santa Fe santero (woodcarver of religious sculptures) and artist Charles Carrillo. With lengthy text and extensive vocabulary, this picture book will like be one read by adults to children and may perhaps be treasured more by adults. [Deborah Bock]

Sketches

By Maisha Baton. West End Press. 51 pp. \$11.95.

Poet Maisha Baton was born in Pennsylvania and the first part of this book give images of Pittsburgh. Then she moved to New Mexico, a place that inspired a section of Albuquerque poems such as "High Times and Low Expectations" and "Just an Albuquerque Girl." Her views are laced with the emotion of poverty and nobility of spirit. [Bill Broyles]

Snowbound

By Blake Crouch. Minotaur Books. 309 pp. \$25.99.

Beginning in the Sonoran Desert but eventually ranging all the way to Alaska, this page-turner sets Will Innis, lawyer, on the run to avoid being charged with murdering his wife. After years of faked identity Will is tracked down by a discredited FBI agent seeking his help to find the people she thinks kidnapped his wife and her sister, as well as who-knows-how-many other pretty, dark-haired women. Add to the mix that Will's daughter has a congenital disease and has only lived to be a teenager because of his constant, unvarying care. [W. David Laird]

Solar: a Novel

By Ian McEwan. Nan A. Talese/Doubleday. 287 pp. \$26.95.

The central figure, but surely not a hero, of this novel is Michael Beard who has won a Nobel Prize in the past but his dissolute, womanizing, and lazy lifestyle have kept him totally unproductive for decades. Now, with a massive solar project, he is about to reclaim his "rightful" place among the world's scientists. Need I say that in Michael's life if something can go wrong it will? McEwan captures Michael's image and thoughts perfectly and leads us to a rousing conclusion in the New Mexico desert. [W. David Laird]

Southern Arizona's Most Haunted

By Renee Gardner. Schiffer Publishing. 157 pp. \$14.99.

Publisher Schiffer seems to specialize in books about the paranormal. This book catalogs ghosts in Tucson, Tombstone, and Bisbee and while it's amusing to hear about the various haunts inhabiting particular buildings and surprising to learn how wide a following this hobby has, I'm still not a believer. It's hard to take an author seriously who says "In March 1856, the United States captured Tucson from Mexico" or that the railroad completed in 1880 "brought people heading west to California's gold rush." [Margaret Loghry]

Southwestern Desert Resources

By Charles Van Riper, William L. Halvorson, Cecil R. Schwalbe. University of Arizona Press. 360 pp. Index. \$39.95.

I look forward to books like this because for years I've heard snippets about the work of these researchers in the desert Southwest and now I get to read the fuller stories of their projects. In this volume of 25 chapters, 55 scientists tell what they learned about topics as diverse as plants in Saguaro National Park, mineral dust drifting across the border, rodents in ironwood forests, black bears in the Sky Islands, and termites on healthy saguaros. The insights and conclusions are as interesting as they are important. Pick a chapter and dive in. [Bill Broyles]

Spanish Missions of New Mexico

By Robin Lyon. Children's Press. Index. \$19.76.

While very briefly recounting the contributions Spanish explorers and missionaries made to the history and culture of New Mexico, this elementary school children's book acknowledges the mistreatment and cruelty Native American often endured. As part of the publisher's "True Book" series, colorful illustrations, bold graphics and layout, and short text sections interspersed with brief facts are used perhaps to make history books for young readers (ages 8-10) more enticing. As a book designed primarily for the school and library market, it also includes lists of resources, organizations and websites, and places to visit, as well as a glossary and index. [Deborah Bock]

Strong Justice: a Caitlin Strong Novel

By Jon Land. Forge Hardcover. 352 pp. \$24.99.

We last read of Caitlin Strong's exploits in 2009's *Strong Enough to Die* when she had resigned from the Texas Rangers. A fifth-generation Ranger, now she's back, and every bit as effective and efficient as before. She's not just strong, she's invincible. This new page-turner begins with a shoot-out in a hospital room that sends all the bad guys to the morgue and gives Caitlin the lead she needs to begin trying to stop the girl smuggling north across the Mexico-Texas border. And in the "backplot" a renegade Mexican colonel believes it is time for the return of Mayan prophecies of the end of the world! If you like your good guys vs. bad guys stories rugged and bloody, Caitlin is the woman for you! [W. David Laird]

Sunshine and Shadows in New Mexico's Past

By Richard Melzer. Río Grande Books. 246 pp. Index. \$18.95.

Published in collaboration with the Historical Society of New Mexico, this is the first(?) volume in the Society's Centennial Series (New Mexico celebrates its 100th birthday as a state in 2012). Sixteen brief papers by eight authors tackle such topics as race relations and gender roles along with farming, ranching and hunting. [W. David Laird]

Tale of the Pronghorned Cantaloupe, The

TOP PICK FOR KIDS

By Sabra Brown Steinsiek. Rio Grande Books. 48 pp. \$17.95.

Although this story about wild, pronghorned cantaloupes may never achieve the legendary status of other classic American tall tales, Steinsiek's vivid imagination has certainly created a clever yarn. Told in the vein of a father's "back when I was a boy" recollection, this young son's version recounts one humorous image after another. The warm, earth-toned illustrations and New Mexican folk art framing of the text add to the folk tale sensibility. This is a simple yet charming picture book from a regional publisher who features regional authors. [Deborah Bock]

Tales from the Trappers' Trail

By Kay Beth Faris-Avery. Western Reflections Publishing. 340 pp. Index. \$18.95.

Nine tales of adventure set in the high country of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. [W. David Laird]

Tamarind Touchstones: Fabulous at Fifty: Celebrating Excellence in Fine Art Lithography

By Marjorie Devon. University of New Mexico Press. 200 pp. \$29.95.

Tamarind Institute, an arm of the University of New Mexico, is celebrating fifty years of fine lithography with an exhibit of ninety prints from its archive of thousands. These are reproduced in full color in this handsome book. This is more than a catalog, however. Essays by contributors such as the director, curator, and master printer reveal the rigors of the training, the emphasis on collaboration by artist and printer, and the love and care that go into each piece, all of which have made Tamarind the outstanding lithography center it is. [Margaret Loghry]

Tengo Sed: a Novel

By James Fleming. University of New Mexico Press. 144 pp. \$16.95.

The fictional experiences of a medical resident in a busy Albuquerque Emergency Department.

Texas Aggie Medals of Honor: Seven Heroes of World War II

By James R. Woodall. Texas A&M University Press. 179 pp. Index. \$25.00.

Here are the gripping stories of seven Texas heroes who were awarded Medals of Honor during World War II.

Texas Ranger Biographies: Those Who Served 1910-1921

By Charles H. Harris, Frances E. Harris, Louis R. Sadler. University of New Mexico Press. 454 pp. \$50.00.

This impressive reference work, a companion volume to Harris and Sadler's narrative account, "The Texas Rangers and the Mexican Revolution," contains biographical information on 1,782 officers who patrolled the Rio Grande border

during a decade of political upheaval in Mexico. Serious researchers will applaud the meticulous detail, while Ranger enthusiasts will appreciate the vivid group portrait of these colorful lawmen. [Bruce Dinges]

Since 1835, exploits of the Texas Rangers as a fighting force are legendary. At the onset of the Mexican Revolution in 1910, the Texas State Ranger force set aside traditional role of fighting Indians and outlaws to protect border towns and cities. This is a companion volume to *Texas Rangers and the Mexican Revolution: The Bloodiest Decade, 1900-1921*. The volume contains a prodigious amount of research and we learn that there were Regular Rangers, Special Rangers, and Loyalty Rangers. The author particularly notes that the Mexican War gave the ranger force twenty-five more years as a separate entity. [Patricia Etter]

Texas Standoff

By Elmore Kelton. Forge. 288 pp. \$24.99.

This tale of the Texas Rangers has several virtues. Some of the characters are well drawn, particularly Logan Daggett, the Ranger who shot first and asked questions afterwards, the somewhat spineless sheriff, Judge Zachary who has secrets, and the feuding ranch families. *Texas Standoff* has a real sense of place and time and no easy answers about what drives men. Kelton, who died in 2009, grew up on a west Texas cattle ranch. He won many western writers awards during his prolific career. While probably not his best work, this is more than a formulaic western. [Margaret Loghry]

They That Laugh Win: to Dr. Ruben Cobos with Love, a Memoir

By Evelia Cobos. Rio Grande Books. 213 pp. \$16.95.

Ruben Cobos, well-known for his collections and interpretations of southwestern lore was apparently a “distant” father but is remembered here by his daughter during a span of years when they lived in Albuquerque. [W. David Laird]

Those Days in December: a Frontier Family's Southwestern Journey

By Nancy Lucia Humphry. Camucille Press. 274 pp. \$14.95.

Called a “historical novel” this narrative, mostly told by a dead matriarch, is so filled with the names, dates, and events of the author’s actual forebears that the reader feels it is history, not fiction. The narrator, Maria Lucia Gonzales, is sixteen years younger than her husband, Clem Humphry, but she outlives him by twenty-three years, not dying until 1963. As a young couple, their search, actually Clem’s search, to find a better life for them, leads them to Colorado, back to New Mexico, and finally to Arizona where Maria Lucia ends her days in a nursing home remembering the events of a long life. [W. David Laird]

Although a historical novel, *Those Days in December* is filled with the places, people, and everyday life that the real-life ranch-wife, Maria Lucia Gonzáles, and her husband had known. This book is an admirable effort by her granddaughter, the author, to stitch together family documents and stories into a credible “autobiography” of a frontier couple finding its way from job to job through Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona between about 1870 and 1966. The result is a sympathetic portrait of a brave woman in a harsh frontier life. Even her last days in an old folks home were difficult, but make for thoughtful reading. [Bill Broyles]

To Hell on a Fast Horse: Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, and the Epic Chase to Justice in the Old West

By Mark L. Gardner. William Morrow. 325 pp. Index. \$26.99.

Gardner catapults into the front rank of western writers with this riveting account of the pursuit and slaying of the Southwest’s most notorious outlaw. Drawing on meticulous research, coupled with a keen eye for character and plot, Gardner constructs a compelling portrait of two men locked in a death struggle that captured the contemporary

imagination and reverberates down to the present day. Sallie, the niece of cattle baron John Chisum, put it best when she told the writer Walter Noble Burns (quoted in Gardner's final paragraph) that "there was good mixed with the bad in Billy the Kid and bad mixed with the good in Pat Garrett . . . Both were real men. Both were worth knowing." Gardner shows why that was so, and why it matters. Along the way, he provides one hell of a good read. [Bruce Dinges]

Trails, Rock Features, and Homesteading in the Gila Bend Area: a Report on the State Route 85, Gila Bend to Buckeye Archaeological Project

By Karen Adams, John L. Czarzasty. Gila River Indian Cultural Resource Management Program. 284 pp. \$19.95.

This archaeology report looks at historical and prehistorical sites and artifacts along Arizona Highway 85 between Gila Bend and Buckeye. Much of the material in its 13 chapters is technical, but there is sufficient narrative about the Komatke, Butterfield, and Anza trails to make it worth your while. Also of interest is the 1929 homestead of the Warner Goode and his family, because it reveals part of story of Black migration to Arizona. [Bill Broyles]

Traveling the Shore of the Spanish Sea: the Gulf Coast of Texas and Mexico

By Geoff Winningham. Texas A&M University Press. 328 pp. Index. \$45.00.

Not really a Southwest book, though about 7 pages do relate to Cabeza de Vaca's unplanned trip in 1528-1536, Winningham takes us 1,200 miles along the coast from Port Arthur, Texas to Vera Cruz, Mexico, showing us people, seashores, small towns, horses and cows along the way. It is a long, languid vacation. [Bill Broyles]

Tree Rings' Tale, The: Understanding Our Changing Climate

By John Fleck. University of New Mexico Press. 91 pp. Index. \$21.95.

Ranging from historic to contemporary, each of the chapters portrays how the earth's climate is studied by focusing on a particular scientist's (or scientists') motivation and endeavors occurring mostly in the Southwest. The author's lively accounts about weather forecasting, the discovery of El Nino, exploration of the Grand Canyon, and more might just encourage students to contemplate careers in science. As part of the publisher's "Worlds of Wonder" series for young adults, chapters include activities to illustrate simple, but similar scientific inquiry. [Deborah Bock]

Trial by Fire

By Judith A. Jance. Simon & Schuster. 357 pp. \$25.99.

Ali Reynolds, former news anchor in Los Angeles, is back in her hometown, Prescott, Arizona. Cajoled into taking over the public information position for the Yavapai County sheriff's department, on a temporary basis, of course. She is swept up almost immediately in a front-page news story; a young woman, badly burned in what appears to be an anti-development arson fire, is saved but cannot communicate. Possibly the work of the Earth Liberation Front, the fire becomes a minor matter as Ali recognizes her own life is also threatened by the woman's very existence. A page-turner that shows off Jance's skill with dialog and plotting. [W. David Laird]

Trick or Treat, Old Armadillo

By Larry Dane Brimner. Boyds Mills Press. \$16.95.

Old Armadillo waits for his friends to come trick or treating; when they arrive, everyone gets a surprise.

Turquoise Ledge, The: a Memoir

TOP PICK

By Leslie Marmon Silko. Viking. 319 pp. \$25.95.

Novelist and artist Leslie Marmon Silko sets out to “construct a self-portrait” and in turn gives us a wonderful glimpse of ourselves as she talks about ants, relatives, rain, and rattlesnakes as seen from her Tucson home on the edge of a desert wilderness. Her house needs fixing, her life occasionally teeters, and the world sometimes rumbles out of control, but her gentle story-telling and penetrating observations keep us on the move as we laugh and walk with her. The result is universal Southwest, an utterly refreshing blend of Native ways and modern science as she and we find joyous fragments of unexpected turquoise in our lives. It’s a desert lover’s delight. [Bill Broyles]

Silko writes a memoir fueled by her speedwalks along Tucson Mountain trails near her home. Nature’s plants and critters, weather phenomena and objects found, such as turquoise rocks, become springboards for reminiscences and commentary about life, past and present. We learn some biographical details, but that’s only part of it. This is a book to be savored in small portions, much like the poetry of Emily Dickinson, whom Silko admires. She perfectly captures the rhythm of Tucson’s seasons and reverence for its plant and animal inhabitants, and includes the whole universe in her musings. [Margaret Loghry]

Undermining Race: Ethnic Identities in Arizona Copper Camps, 1880-1920

By Phylis Cancilla Martinelli. University of Arizona Press. 240 pp. Index. \$50.00.

Martinelli’s analysis of the historical data for four decades is focused on the Italian segment of the miners. She shows that, to some extent, specifically in the Globe and Bisbee camps as well as in the Mexican camp at Clifton-Morenci, both mixing and hostilities between racial groups were modified by the working and economic conditions. Although her subject is to a certain extent “technical”, readers with an interest in the topic will find it readable and free of jargon. [W. David Laird]

Understanding the Arizona Constitution

By Toni McClory. The University of Arizona Press. 269 pp. Index. \$19.95.

Almost a decade ago (2001) when the first edition of this book appeared, the Southwest Books of the Year panel named it one of the ten best published that year; now it’s even better. [W. David Laird]

Union of their Dreams, The: Power, Hope, and Struggle in Cesar Chavez's Farm Worker Movement

By Miriam Pawel. Bloomsbury Press. 372 pp. Index. \$28.00.

Cesar Chavez was no saint. The founder of United Farm Workers Union took on the world in his determination to protect farm workers from exploitation by owners of vineyards and farms. At the same time, he led with absolute power and micromanaged, often not listening to those who reported to him. Here is an amazing story of Chavez’ exploitation of three women and five men who believed in the struggle and wholeheartedly and selflessly dedicated years of their lives to help those who worked for little pay in deplorable conditions. Powell’s meticulous research has produced the untold story of eight people who were the backbone of the union and contributed to Chavez’ success: Chris, Elesio, Jerry, Sandy, Ellen, Gretchen, Jessica, Sabino, each one devoted to Chavez, and each one ultimately unceremoniously tossed out long before Chavez’ death in 1993. This is a powerful work. [Patricia Etter]

University of New Mexico, The

By V.B. Price. University of New Mexico Press. 128 pp. \$34.95.

There is no doubt that students, graduates, and professors, past and present, will treasure a copy of this beautiful publication. Graduate Robert Reck, now an internationally known architectural photographer, filled the book with stunning photographs covering the four seasons. The author writes that the 120 year-old university has "querencia, a place in our hearts, like a homeland." It serves a vast community of writers, poets, scientists, scholars, architects, musicians, painters, and sculptors. The buildings on campus show influence from Spanish, Pueblo style, and modern, each honoring past history. [Patricia Etter]

Urban Farming in the West: a New Deal Experiment in Subsistence Homesteads

By Robert M. Carriker. University of Arizona Press. 238 pp. Index. \$39.50.

This scholarly study pulls back the curtain on the short-lived, and now nearly forgotten, New Deal effort to settle disadvantaged-but-industrious families on self-sufficient farms. Using Phoenix, Arizona; San Fernando and El Monte, California; and Longview, Washington, as case studies, Carriker chronicles a story of high hopes and modest results, insisting that these projects in the Far West came far closer to realizing federal goals than their counterparts elsewhere. New Deal specialists, in particular, will appreciate Carriker's thorough research and thoughtful conclusions. [Bruce Dinges]

Urban Indians in Phoenix Schools, 1940-2000

By Stephen Amerman. University of Nebraska Press. 280 pp. Index. \$40.00.

The Phoenix Union High School system serves the third-largest Native community in the country and was the site for this study of American Indian education in an urban environment. The strength of this book stems from its account of the experience of eighteen students from several tribes who found themselves in the minority among Mexican-American, African-American and Asian-American students. Amerman discusses the emotional challenges confronting these students as they adjusted to a new educational system while working to retain a sense of cultural background and Native pride. [Patricia Etter]

Walk-on, The

By David Bagga. AuthorHouse. 172 pp. \$14.95.

Not recruited, Bagga was given a spot on legendary University of Arizona coach Lute Olson's final year team and played (or rather, sat on the bench) for the three coaches who followed. [W. David Laird]

We are an Indian Nation: a History of the Hualapai People

TOP PICK

By Jeffrey P. Shepherd. University of Arizona Press. 282 pp. Index. \$45.00.

The Hualapai people of northern Arizona have long fought to retain their traditions and rights to land and water through Spanish, Mexican, and American periods. Well researched, this first definitive history of the tribe is one that author Jeffery Shepherd wrote with the Tribal Council and residents as active participants. The tribe has long sought ways to search for economic stability but was often rejected because of outside politics. There is hope that the seventy-foot long horseshoe-shaped Hualapai Skywalk that juts four thousand feet over the Grand Canyon, will bring much needed funds through tourism. Here is a well-researched history from the earliest times that will be treasured by the Hualapai people and welcomed by scholars of American Indian history. [Patricia Etter]

For too long the Hualapai, a proud people living in northwestern Arizona, have been one of the least visible Native Nations, but their story is that of many First Nations. Historically they battled the U.S. Army pushing them off their lands, eastern settlers grazing their grass and cutting their timber, railroad companies taking their water and Indian agents sending their children to abusive schools, but few outsiders knew or understood them. Shepherd has taken his

prodigious research and written a thoroughly readable, balanced book that brings to life the Hualapai and their struggles. This is a major contribution to understanding Arizona's history, just in time for the state's centennial. [Bill Broyles]

We Will Dance Our Truth: Yaqui History in Yoeme Performances

By David Delgado Shorter. University of Nebraska Press. 373 pp. Index. \$45.00.

This modern analysis of Yaqui history and resilience is based on years of field work conducted while the author was a student at Arizona State University in the 1990s. He proposes that scholars have been overly dependent on written records rather than considering performance, ritual and oral traditions. The book is thoroughly researched and clearly presented. For me the best parts were six transcriptions of interviews between the author and unnamed respondents, and quotes from the author's informal field notes. This work is a major contribution to the body of Yoeme study. [Margaret Loghry]

Wedding Cake

By J. Lynne Hinton. Avon. 281 pp. \$13.99.

Three ladies of Hope Springs, NC are old friends; they are united in missing their former pastor, Charlotte, who is busy running an underfunded shelter for battered women and children in Gallup, NM. Charlotte falls for Donovan Sanchez, an American Indian divorced policeman whose ex-wife turns up as a victim in the shelter. Charlotte, hurt by the closeness of Sanchez and his ex, breaks off the relationship. All ends happily with a double wedding when the women of Hope Springs intervene. The characterization the Gallup locals and details about the shelter were interesting but don't make up for the ennui of the ladies' dilemmas and gossip and the irrelevance of recipes between each chapter. There must be an audience for this fluff, but count me out. [Margaret Loghry]

Why Texans Fought in the Civil War

By Charles D. Gear. Texas A&M University Press. 256 pp. Index. \$30.00.

Gear pours through a mountain of letters, diaries, and reminiscences that suggest Lone Star soldiers picked up arms either to defend their home states in the Old South or to expand Texas boundaries to the Pacific, in the case of Confederates, or, in the case of Germans and Tejanos, expressed their disdain for Southern ideals by sitting out the war or enlisting in the Union Army. He also flips the coin to examine the factors that eventually drained morale. Rich in anecdotal detail, this well-researched and carefully reasoned volume is a welcome addition to the growing literature exploring motivation in the Union and Confederate armies. [Bruce Dinges]

Wild Penance

By Sandi Ault. Berkley Prime Crime. 297 pp. \$24.95.

A crucified man tossed off the Rio Grande Bridge outside Taos launches BLM resource protection agent Jamaica Wild on her fourth adventure, this time investigating northern New Mexico's secretive Penitente cult and mysterious fence cuttings on federal land. Ault's vivid descriptions of the southwestern landscape, coupled with an intriguing tale of ritual and revenge, makes for another satisfying read. [Bruce Dinges]

Wind Doesn't Need a Passport, The: Stories from the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands

By Tyche Hendricks. University of California Press. 246 pp. Index. \$27.50.

The United States border with Mexico is a place where the citizens of two countries have long co-existed. It is also the epicenter of a myriad of problems concerning immigration, drugs, violence, and poverty. These problems are

discussed in depth by the author, who has explored the Borderlands, talked with its residents, and concluded that there are things the American public needs to learn. Do they know thousands cross the border daily to work, visit the doctor, or buy groceries? Or that ranchers in New Mexico's boot heel work closely with Mexican ranchers across the line? Consider, too, the Tohono O'odham of Arizona, who know no border since they regularly exchange visits with relatives a few steps away on the other side. The deeper causes of illegal immigration, says Hendricks, have to do with profound economic disparities. This is essential reading for any citizen concerned with border issues. [Patricia Etter]

Women Who Live in Coffee Shops and Other Stories

By Stella Pope Duarte. Arte Publico Press. 192 pp. \$15.95.

Duarte's stories are vignettes; this is what life is like on the mean streets of Phoenix. Poor but proud, tough but tender, her characters surely came, at least in part, from her own life on those streets. When a boy falls from a tree and dies, is his older brother responsible because he didn't watch him more carefully, and does this taint the rest of his life? Often the lessons of today are juxtaposed against the morality tales of an aunt, a mother, a grandmother and modern life imitates the Bible. [W. David Laird]

In this award-winning baker's dozen of short stories, Duarte (If I Die in Juarez, Let Their Spirits Dance) pulls back a curtain on what she describes as the invisible lives of people, mostly Hispanic, living on the margins of modern urban society. The setting is Phoenix, where her carefully limned characters, predominantly women and children, learn hard truths and absorb strength from friendship and culture. Duarte knows these streets and these people, whose hardships and triumphs provide insight and inspiration. [Bruce Dinges]

Work of Sovereignty, The: Tribal Labor Relations and Self-Determination at the Navajo Nation

By David Kamper. School for Advanced Research Press. 260 pp. Index. \$34.95.

His interest triggered by the issues surrounding Native American gaming, anthropologist Kamper spent his research time working on a dissertation among the Reservation Navajos. His efforts to understand the relationships between employees and the tribe resulted in this analysis. He does not propose solutions; rather, he suggests ways in which the future of labor relations on the Reservation can be modified for the benefit of the tribe and its members. [W. David Laird]

Working in the Shadows: a Year of Doing the Jobs (Most) Americans Won't Do

By Gabriel Thompson. Nation Books. 298 pp. \$24.95.

Thompson, a published writer/journalist, set out to experience three kinds of work that are part of the general category, labor. The first third of this book details his experiences as a field hand harvesting lettuce in southwestern Arizona, while the following two-thirds tackle the poultry industry in the south and restaurant kitchen help in his hometown, New York City. All three kinds of work are difficult and physically demanding, but Thompson lives through his year and gains new respect for the people who do the work. And new outrage for a system that exploits those who are often un(der)educated. [W. David Laird]

Working the Line

TOP PICK

By Monica Ramirez-montagut, David Taylor, Luis Alberto Urrea. Radius Books. 148 pp. \$50.00.

If you haven't been able to wrap your mind around the explosive U.S.-Mexico borderline, maybe David Taylor's large photographs will help explain its vastness, dangers and disarming beauty. It should be mandatory reading for anyone who believes a border fence will cure an immigration malady. Taylor walks in the shoes of Border Patrol agents to see

the world as they see it—and live it. He enjoys access to places that few of us will ever go or dare to go. You may not believe your eyes. Essays by Hannah Frieser and Luis Alberto Urrea complement Taylor’s powerful lens-work. This artful slip-case edition includes a 23-foot-long accordion-fold book of photos as well as a large hard-bound book. [Bill Broyles]

In addition to Taylor’s large-format, you-are-there photographs, this wondrous, and simultaneously depressing, book has two Spanish/English essays (by Luis Alberto Urrea and Hannah Frieser) that tell us in words what the photos help us interpret. In addition an “accordion” of an additional set of color photographs depicts what 88 points along the border (going west from number one near El Paso) look like today. A remarkable accomplishment. [W. David Laird]

Yellow Dirt: an American Story of a Poisoned Land and People Betrayed

By Judy Pasternak. Free Press. 317 pp. Index. \$26.00.

This account of the effects of uranium mining in the Navajo Nation during the 1940s through the early 1960s, and the negligence of mining companies and government agencies, both U.S. and Indian, is appalling and spellbinding. It is a story of greed, apathy, and buck-passing. Safety precautions were not taken. Warnings were not heeded. It was years after exposure that miners died of lung cancer, and other cancers and birth defects rocketed on the reservation. Sadly, the dangers had been documented through earlier studies. Wrongs have only recently begun to be righted. This clearly and concisely written piece is more than an expose: it also captures the enduring spirit of the Navajos. [Margaret Loghry]

Zuni Fetishes and Carvings

By Kent McManis, Robin Stancliff. Rio Nuevo Publishers. 151 pp. Index. \$19.95.

Anyone with an interest in Zuni fetishes (small, usually stone, carvings of birds and animals) will be delighted with this 3rd edition of McManis’ standard book on the subject. Hundreds of these “good luck charms” are illustrated in excellent color photographs and the larger format allows for an increase in both the size and number of examples. A dealer in Native American art, McManis knows the individuals and families who produce these interesting objects and provides brief background information on them. [W. David Laird]