June 2006

Review of *Livestock Hotels: America's Historic Stockyards* by J’Nell L. Pate

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Bunker Hill & Sullivan Mining & Concentrating Company for a summer job. When he drove away from his Seattle home in June 1956, he was about to enter a new world, in which over the course of three summers he would learn about himself and about adulthood. His first taste of this was when he thought he might find a room for the summer at the Lux Rooms in Wallace, only to learn that the establishment was a brothel. The madam kindly sent him back to Kellogg with directions to an actual boardinghouse. Folks he encountered after that continued to help him find his way among the dangers of the mines, the mysteries of dating mining-town girls, and the hierarchies of his chosen profession in the mining industry.

Wolff’s appreciation for the people of Kellogg and the Silver Valley has a wide embrace. It includes the men with whom he worked underground, and especially the experienced miner, Chris Christopherson, who was his partner those three summers. It includes the woman who worked fourteen hours a day cooking in the boardinghouse where he lived and took his meals. It includes hoist engineers and shift bosses. Wolff’s narrative, peppered with quotes from the local vernacular, helps the reader to value all of them.

The book has twenty-eight short chapters followed by an epilogue. Each chapter focuses on a particular person, a noteworthy experience, or some aspect of the mining world. Recognizing that such stories gain significance if given historical context, Wolff makes an effort to provide some background history of the Bunker Hill Mine and the Coeur d’Alene Mining District. He broadens that context in the last chapter by drawing comparisons between what he experienced during those summers and his later career in the aerospace industry. The attention to context makes A Room for the Summer a valuable contribution to the history of mining; Wolff’s writing style makes it a joy to read.

Fredric L. Quivey
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

LIVESTOCK HOTELS
America’s Historic Stockyards
J’Nell L. Pate


Between the Civil War and World War II, stockyards served as the main collection point for the nation’s livestock in their journey from pasture to market. J’Nell Pate charts the rise and fall of these “livestock hotels,” offering a nostalgic

The Shoshone group known as Tukudika, or Sheep Eaters, maintained a rich and abundant way of life closely related to their primary source of protein, the mountain sheep of the high-altitude Yellowstone area. These robust people were talented artisans, making well-constructed shelters, powerful horn bows, and expertly tailored clothing that was highly sought by their trading partners. They moved in small, kin-based bands, accompanied by large dogs that were indispensable hunting and treking companions. Moving seasonally through portions of the Beartooth, Absaroka, and Wind River ranges, the Sheep Eaters made skillful use of their environment.

Written for general readers, Mountain Spirit includes photographs, lithographs, and a number of color drawings and sketches of Sheep Eater life ways by David Joaquin. It presents a vivid picture of the vanished way of life of a people whose accomplishments have been largely ignored in histories of Native peoples.

The University of Utah Press
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early market cities, midwestern markets, and later realigned the cattle industry. Of the twentieth century, the increase in the number of Packers and Stockyards Act, which sought to eliminate monopolies owned by railroad companies, packers, or both. In 1921, the grip of the central stockyards, and the rise of feedlots country auction houses and highway shipping lessened railroads. Over time, railroads and industry from area, its existence increased dramatically. The first major stockyard built historically after the Civil War was the Union Stockyards of Chicago, established in 1865. It was typical for the era, built in a key urban area, its existence made possible by the proliferation of railroads. Over time, railroads and meat packers combined with the stockyards to form the “triplets” of the American meat industry. Many stockyards were at least partially owned by railroad companies, packers, or both. In 1921, the federal government intervened with the passage of the Packers and Stockyards Act, which sought to eliminate monopolies and other unfair trade practices. By the end of the twentieth century, the increase in the number of country auction houses and highway shipping lessened the grip of the central stockyards, and the rise of feedlots realigned the cattle industry.

Individual assessments of two dozen stockyards provide the bulk of the work. Pate divides the stockyards into early market cities, midwestern markets, and later stockyards. This approach works for the first chapter, which moves from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to Chicago with stops in Cincinnati, Louisville, and St. Louis, but Pate could have included a section on the Plains as locating Denver and Fort Worth (among others) in the Midwest is a bit of a stretch. A bigger problem is the lack of connection to the first part of the book. One wishes that Pate had integrated the particular details of each stockyard into the general summary of the industry.

Overall, Pate follows established contours of the field, and in some instances her characterizations are too traditional. For example, she is content to associate the end of homesteading with 1890, although the great majority of claims were made after 1900. Likewise, she overlooks the agricultural depressions following World War I, focusing instead on the depression of the 1930s. When Pate concludes that consumer demand provided the impetus toward feedlots in the 1960s, one cannot help but wonder if there is more to the transition.

Herefore, historians have overlooked the stockyards’ role in the development of the meat industry, choosing to focus on railroads and the packing giants, Livestock Hotels, although not definitive, is the first comprehensive examination of the stockyard industry. Complete with a glossary of stockyard terminology, several statistical tables, photographs of most of the stockyards mentioned, and a map, Livestock Hotels offers an important compendium of data while suggesting many questions for further research.

Dave Nesheim
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Gary Clayton Anderson, the eminent University of Oklahoma historian, rarely pulls his punches. Thus, few scholars of the American West will be surprised by his provocative, trailblazing study of ethnic warfare in nineteenth-century Texas. Anderson’s solidly researched book tells of a violent clash of cultures—a fifty-year conflict between Indians, Tejanos, and Anglos, with the latter assuming the role as villains who ultimately drove their competitors from their rightful homes. Anderson uses the term “ethnic cleansing” to describe the actions.