Fall 2007

Book Notes- Fall 2007

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August Scherneckau's diary presents a view of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi theater through the eyes of a German immigrant serving with the First Nebraska volunteers from 1862 through 1865.

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Army scout, explorer, Indian agent, gold prospector, and family man, Luther "Yellowstone" Kelly earned his name scouting for the U.S. Army along the Yellowstone River. Independent historian Jerry Keenan's biography includes Kelly's exploits in the Great Plains.

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In November 1868 the U.S. Calvary under Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer attacked a peaceful Southern Cheyenne village along the Washita River in present-day western Oklahoma. Richard G. Hardorff presents a range of views of the Washita battle through firsthand testimonies by both Indians and whites, each accompanied by an introduction and extensive annotation. A general introduction and fourteen historical maps are also included.

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Donovin Arleigh Sprague offers a collection of nearly two hundred images of people and events connected with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

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Through transcripts of radio broadcasts, business documents, and nearly two hundred telegrams to family, friends, and notable figures, this final volume of The Papers of Will Rogers follows the career of the popular Oklahoma entertainer during the height of his fame to his death and beyond.

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Felix Cohen, who assisted John Collier in drafting the New Deal's Indian Reorganization Act in 1934, formulated his "Basic Memorandum
on Drafting of Tribal Constitutions" that same
year. David E. Wilkins's introduction and edit­
ing highlight what Cohen's "Memorandum"
reveals about the thinking of federal officials
regarding Indiana policy at the time.

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Road, River, and Ol' Boy Politics: A Texas
County's Path from Farm to Supersuburb.
By Linda Scarbrough. Austin: Texas State
Maps, photographs, notes, bibliography, index.
$39.95.

Linda Scarbrough examines Williamson County,
Texas, just north of Austin, and what hap­
pens when a diverse agricultural economy is
transformed through large-scale public works
projects into a homogeneous supersuburb
dependent on computers and other high-tech­
nology products. It becomes a cautionary tale
about adequately planning for all the environ­
mental, economic, and cultural effects of large
public works projects.

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Literary Austin. Edited by Don Graham. Fort
Bibliography, index. $29.50 cloth, $17.95
paper.

Editor Don Graham's collection showcases
literary responses to the history, color, and
character of Texas's capital city. Included are
essays, fiction, and poetry by such writers as O.
Henry, J. Frank Dobie, Larry McMurtry, Molly
Ivins, Walter P. Webb, and many others.

Kearney. By Mark R. Ellis and Heather E.
Stauffer. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing,

The images in this pictorial history of Kearney,
Nebraska, are largely drawn from the A.
T. Anderson and John Stryker collections
housed at the Trails and Rails Museum and at
the University of Nebraska at Kearney. The
authors' selections highlight Kearney's growth
from small railroad town to educational and
commercial center in central Nebraska.

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Stone Church: A Prairie Parable. By Gene Wun­
derlich. Minot, ND: Swedish Heritage Society
tographs, endnotes, sources. $9.95 paper.

Gene Wunderlich tells the story of early
Swedish settlers constructing a house of wor­
ship in the harsh environment of northern
North Dakota. More than a century after its
construction it still stands as a monument to
the skills of its builders.

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Picturing the Past: South Dakota's Historic
Photographs by Scott Myers. Pierre: South
107 pp. Photographs, index. $29.95.

The memories and history of South Dakota's
historic buildings are captured in seventy-eight
vivid black-and-white photographs by Scott
Myers. Authors Jay D. Vogt and Stephen C.
Rogers give context and relevance to the build­
ings and places pictured here.