



Book Reviews

THEY BUILT THE WEST, An Epic of Rails and Cities by Glenn Chesney Quiett. Appleton-Century. \$5.00.

A dramatic record of building the west's urban civilization, treating the period of 50 years following the Civil War. Mr. Quiett's narrative sets forth in terms of personalities the builders, men of vision, daring and organizing genius, who transformed the frontier. Among these sometimes predatory men are Palmer of the Kansas Pacific; Strong of the Santa Fe; Huntington and associates, Stanford, Hopkins and Crocker of the Central Pacific; Durant and Ames brothers of Union Pacific; the elder Hearst and numerous others. The lusty qualities of such growing cities as Denver, San Francisco, San Diego, Los Angeles, Portland, Spokane and others are told in a swiftly moving tale that endeavors to incorporate into one book almost too immense a period for compression.

BERNICE COSULICH.

WHEN OLD TRAILS WERE NEW, The Story of Taos. By Blanche C. Grant. Press of the Pioneers. \$3.00.

The village of Taos from the Sixteenth Century to its modern

occupation by American artists forms the theme for this new book, which represents years of careful research. While few documentary evidences may be found of the Spanish days, Miss Grant builds on what scraps there are, a moving, picturesque tale. The era of the Indian, the don, and padre; the days of trappers, traders and freighters all have their apportioned place in the changeful life of Taos. The coming of the first artists, effect of the Civil War, interweaving of Indian customs and white man's civilization; the penitentes, miners' tales and other events in the town's life are given in this well written and illustrated new volume.

BERNICE COSULICH.

PIONEER PADRE. THE LIFE AND TIMES OF EUSEBIO FRANCISCO KINO. by Rufus Kay Wyllys, Dallas, Texas. The Southwest Press, 1935. xi plus 230 pp., \$3.00.

A biographical interpretation of Padre Kino, beloved apostle of the Southwest, in convenient and popular form is to be welcomed into the literature of the Southwest. This the author purports to supply in his *Pioneer Padre*, and admirably has he succeeded.

Rapidly sketching, the author immediately acquaints the reader with the sparseness of authentic information concerning the birth, boyhood and early manhood of Eusebio Francisco Chini (Chini became Kino when the young padre arrived in New Spain). The familiar story of the Italian youth in German institutions of higher learning where he emerges to a point of scholarly recognition for

adeptness in mathematics and geography is recounted. The missionary zeal aroused through contact with San Francisco Xavier while the youthful Kino lay ill unto death, was supplemented by the call of his blood and of adventure thus to cause him to abandon a career as a scientist to enter the Jesuit Order as a missionary to the New World.

Conditioned by circumstances characteristic of the slow and infrequent transportation to the New World, the young padre landed in Vera Cruz on May 9, 1681, though his first preparation for the journey began early in the spring of 1678. With deft strokes, Dr. Wyllys acquaints the reader with the role of the mission and missionaries of New Spain, so that he is prepared to follow the enthusiastic padre in his career as director of an institution—the mission—which, while sponsored by the Crown of Spain as an instrumentality for temporal advancement, at the same time gave opportunity to a sincere churchman for a career of unselfish devotion.

From Mexico City to the first entrada into Baja California, until fate and the need of the Spanish Crown for a half million dollars directed Kino's course to the land of the Pimas (Pimeria Baja and Pimeria Alta), the story moves entertainingly on, directed by a well trained writer.

For a historian familiar with the detail of an historical era it is not always easy to differentiate between that which will hold the general reader and that which will confuse his interest to the point of despair, but Dr. Wyllys seems to have the

faculty for telling a story entertainingly and well. At certain points in the narrative there may be a tendency to lose the character of Kino in answering an urge to tell about the country and the institutions. If this happens at all, it is in the chapter on the land of the Pimas and the one entitled "New Spain Looks Northward." Yet Kino emerges clear cut and more easily understood because of the clearness of the setting into which he goes.

That Kino's famous mission of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores served as a base for his operations into the borderlands throughout his career is the interpretation given by Dr. Wyllys. Numerous entradas into the Altar valley, explorations on the trail of the blue shell, and the establishment of a chain of missions all gained impetus from the mother mission of which Father Kino was for about twenty-four years padre superior.

Concerning the early controversy over whether Baja California was an island or a peninsula, the writer assigns credit as follows to Kino: "In justice, however, Kino cannot be given all the credit for his conviction that Baja California was not an island. It will be remembered that a century and a half before, the old Spanish navigator, Ulloa, and others, had proved the country a peninsula . . . Kino would merely convince the world that the earliest voyagers and map-makers were, after all, correct."

The rivalry between the missions and private enterprise in the economic realm receives recognition and is given realism in the details of Kino's difficulties with propaganda emanating from the secular foes of

the padres. "Probably the truth of the matter, although Kino may not have perceived it, was that the frontier of Spanish settlement was beginning to press too closely upon the heels of the mission padres, and to work havoc with the Indians and undermine the influence of the missionaries." (p. 176)

Yuletide at a Sonora frontier mission is entertainingly portrayed on page 178. "Truly, the good padre had need of a holiday diversion. His days were filled with bickerings and threats of violence between Spanish soldiers and settlers on the one hand, and the peaceful but not cringing Pimas on the other."

From this biography the character of Kino emerges as one of the greatest of the stalwarts of old whose fame is enduring to the people of the Southwest. "Kino was more than a missionary. He was an explorer of the first rank . . . Nor was Kino merely an explorer. To a miserable population he brought the means of a better livelihood, in the shape of cattle, sheep, goats, horses and mules. . . . In an economic sense, Kino was both the founder and exponent of Pimeria Alta."

The book is divided into three parts: Part One, Approach; Part Two, Quest; Part Three, Achievement. Almost an equal number of chapters occur in each part. The author probably reaches his zenith as a biographer in Part Three, and especially in his chapter entitled "Anochecida."

The author, Dr. Wyllys, is professor of history at Arizona State Teachers College at Tempe, Arizona. A trained historian and a

pupil of Dr. H. E. Bolton, he has brought to bear on his task his intimate knowledge of the main written sources and an insight which must belong to a pupil of that pioneer in Hispanic American and Southwestern history.

WALDO E. WALTZ.

DESERT WIFE. By Hilda Faunce. Illustrations by W. Langdon Kihn. Little, Brown and Company, Boston, Mass., \$3.00.

Arizona would seem to have been a man's state, if one judges by written records of past and present. Pioneer women's stories have been neglected, except at long intervals when a book dealing with the feminine side of Arizona's development, women's courage, privations, vision and helpfulness is printed. *Vanished Arizona* by Martha Summerhayes gave such a story, the author telling vividly of her experiences as an army officer's bride in Arizona during Indian wars.

Little has been written since that early and out of print book either by or about women on the frontier. Fortunately our literature has been added to this past year by *Desert Wife* by Mrs. Faunce, and *Cowman's Wife* by Mary Kidder Rak. *Traders to the Navajos* by Frances Gillmor and Louisa Wade Wetherill, despite its authors, deals more largely with the story of white and red men on the reservation.

Desert Wife is one of those biographical tales that possesses sufficient detachment and objectiveness to make it worth while. The author tells of years spent on the Navajo Indian Reservation at the Covered Wells trading post. She was isolated from all the comforts of

civilization; her privacy impinged upon by Indian women seeking help, council, comfort; her trading post was the hub of reservation life for that section.

She catches expertly and truly the tone-color and feel of northern Arizona; the life of the Navajos with their eccentricities, gossip, heroics, and age-old customs. Her development of several characters, principally the Old Buzzard, the Little Cranks and the Little Bidoni and his wives, are excellent. Not once through the book does she dramatize or over emphasize these people who traded wool for canned goods, who were friendly or bitter, or who aired their domestic or tribal difficulties across the post's counter. Nor does she stoop to self-pity or incriminations when writing of her own experiences, which were hardly pleasant at times and often severely lonely and difficult with a silent man of the west as husband.

There is no hesitation in enthusiastically recommending *Desert Wife* to every type of reader. The spirit and style are simple, sound, and suitable to the story.

BERNICE COSULICH.

ARIZONA PLACE NAMES. By Will C. Barnes, University of Arizona. \$1.50.

The fascination of place names has seldom been better exemplified than in this work by Will C. Barnes, who for over thirty years has been gleaning information from "everybody who had a story to tell as to the origin and meaning of Arizona names." The book is as colorful as its famous author, and a quarry from which

many of us expect to get a great deal of information and entertainment. Scores of other place-name enthusiasts are sure to follow in the wake of Mr. Barnes, and it is certain that for many years his book will be made liberal use of.

Arizona is unusually rich in interesting names. Conquistadors, Jesuits, Franciscans, Mormons, miners, cowboys, even geologists have contributed liberally. Tracing the origin of names such as Arizona, Tucson, Tombstone, Skull Valley, Christmas, Easter, Hassayampa, Wickyty-wizz must have been a labor filled with joy. Poker Mountain, Freezout Creek, Paradise Creek (which "failed because of financial troubles"), Showlow, Snowflake, Vinegaron Well, Globe, Adamana, Charmingdale, Eloy (really a very profane bit of nomenclature), Harqua Hala,—these and a thousand more are to be found on the map of Arizona. Our climate and our scenery have evidently been fertile aids to the imagination. Wishbone Mt., Total Wreck, Pepper Sauce Wash, Monkey Springs, Horse Thief Basin, Cañon del Muerto, Cascabel, Superstition Mts.—one keeps turning the 500 pages of Mr. Barnes's volume to discover the embedded history. And with history the author is unusually generous, luckily going far beyond the limits his subject might have imposed upon a more academic writer. There is even a ten-page list of "First Things in Arizona." Much of this valuable material might have been lost if not salvaged here, some of it is even what Mr. Barnes loves

to call "unrecorded." Evidently talent developed in his old days of Indian scouting has been turned to good advantage.

Of course much remains to be done. Hosts of our place names are difficult. Even the name Arizona, after all the research lavished upon it by successive historians, still has its mystery, nobody having been able to account for its application to so wide a territory. Tucson also, though its derivation seems certain, offers two puzzling features, being found in Ohio and Peru. The origin of the name of Tombstone is disputed. Material uncovered in the Father Kino diaries has yet to be made use of. Such books as Mrs. Sanchez' delightful *Spanish and Indian Place Names of California* ought to throw light on many of our Arizona names.

And after the work of discovering or verifying origins has been fairly exhausted, there will still remain the long and difficult task of making generalizations and deductions, sure to result in interesting articles on such topics as the history and the poetry in our names. Ultimately the names of all our western country, in-

cluding Mexico, must be studied together.

But this more serious work need not keep us from the present enjoyment offered by Mr. Barnes. Anyone can find entertainment in looking up what is said of Galiuro, Phoenix (it was a matter of surprise and gratification to discover how narrowly our capital city came to being called by the euphonious and suggestive name of Swilling), Music Mountains, Del Shay Basin, Kymo, Nutrioso—to mention at random only a few. Spenazuma and Wepo (Hopi for onion) are almost too good to be true.

Doubtless many of Mr. Barnes's conjectures will be supplanted by the discoveries of later investigators; but just as doubtless his work will always be referred to with high respect by all who know the difficulties of his subject. We are grateful to him for opening up so rich a field for the enjoyment of all who have any love of frontier flavor, imagination touched by humor, and a salty raciness possessed by all too few of our writers on place names.

SIDNEY F. PATTISON.