



Book Reviews

MESA LAND, The History and Romance of the American Southwest. By Anna Wilmarth Ickes. Houghton Mifflin Company. \$3.00.

The wife of the Secretary of the Interior, claims that it is not every author who can go to an Arizona Indian snake dance and find copies of her book being used as guides. Mrs. Ickes had just that experience this summer. She catches some of the enchantment of the Southwest in her travel tale, which opens with a nicely epitomized history and then breaks into chapters on the Navajos, dead cities of the past, Zuni Indians, Hopi people, dances of importance among our Arizona and New Mexico primitives. While she sees most things through the eyes of an easterner, her sympathies are ever with these red men. *Mesa Land* is a good hand book for those new to Arizona.

BERNICE COSULICH.

GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA. By Dan Rose. Republic and Gazette Printery.

A complete and careful study of the history, prehistoric and pioneer, of Gila county. There are sections dealing with the famous

Pinole Treaty at Bloody Tanks, the first mine location, the first Christmas tree in Globe, the rich discoveries made by miners, and many other interesting phases of the growth of this county. Mr. Rose is himself one of the pioneer residents of this section of Arizona.

LOTUS MEYER ROYALTEY.

A COWMAN'S WIFE. By Mary Kidder Rak. Houghton Mifflin Company. \$2.75.

As simple a story of a modern ranchman's wife as could be written, yet every page is entertaining, informative, and interesting. Mrs. Rak of Rucker Canyon, Chiricahua mountains, Arizona, is a university woman who had to learn that "all her life she must play second fiddle to a cow." Rather than resenting the fact, she came to be as much a cow hand as her husband; learned to trap, shoot, doctor sick animals, always to have food ready for the city drop-ins and enjoy the unexpected—which had a way of happening too often at her ranch. Every city-dwelling wife who complains when the maid walks out or when she didn't win the first bridge prize should read *A Cowman's Wife*. There is no need to recommend it to other ranch women, they've probably read it long ago and found themselves mirrored in every well written page.

BERNICE COSULICH.

CALIFORNIA JOE. Biography of a Pioneer Frontiersman. By Joe E. Miller and Earle R. Forrest. The Caxton Printers, Ltd. \$3.00.

A detailed and careful biography of one of the outstanding fron-

tiersmen of his time. Known to history as "the man of mystery of the Old West," given the name of California Joe through a trivial incident and carrying it to his grave with his real name lost to memory, this man's story has missed being told for the some sixty years since his death. A grandson has gathered a mass of material from original sources and from it has woven the life history of this strong and forceful character. Trapper and comrade of Jim Bridger and Kit Carson; scout for Custer and Crook; Indian fighter; comrade of Wild Bill Hickok and Buffalo Bill; the life of California Joe covers all phases of Western life and history. The glamour has been removed and the truth stands forth stranger and more fascinating than fiction.

LOTUS MEYER ROYALTEY.

DIGGING IN THE SOUTHWEST. By Ann Axtell Morris. Doubleday, Doran & Co. \$2.50.

Widespread reading of this might result in Arizona's appreciation of her archaeological heritages, in some definite movement to more adequately preserve pre-Columbian ruins and in driving out the destroying pothunters both lay and endowed by out of state institutions. Mrs. Morris tells an engaging story of her experiences with her scientist husband in Arizona and New Mexico uncovering Indian ruins. Through them past and present meet. Her chapter called "The Fingerprints of the Sun" relates Dr. A. E. Douglass' search for the missing tree-ring link in his chronological dating system through which many Indian caves, pit houses and pueblos have now definite dates. The author is never too scientific

for the average reader and she is always lightly entertaining. Some of the secrets of the archaeological trade will increase any reader's admiration for these dust covered, patient seekers into the past.

BERNICE COSULICH.

THE STORY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN. By Paul Radin. Live-right Publishers. \$2.50.

Rather fascinating tracing of unifying threads found in American Indian tribes from mound builders of middle west to Mayas and Incas. While Mr. Radin often can but summarize the cultural influences of North and South American tribes, his book is worth reading.

BERNICE COSULICH.

TRIGGEROMETRY: A Gallery of Gunfighters. By Eugene Cunningham. Press of the Pioneers. \$3.75.

While Mr. Cunningham of El Paso may endeavor to make gun men of the Southwest into Homeric figures, that should not be held against him. He is so steeped in the legends surrounding such persons as Jim Gillett, Jim Courtright, Ranger Captain John R. Hughes, Wild Bill Hickok, John Slaughter, Tom Horn, Butch Cassidy, and "Billy" Breckenridge that he magnifies their stature. What one may quarrel with him for, is sometimes a carelessness with historic material that the uninformed may be lead into errors unless other sources and books are checked. Just as entertaining reading *Triggernometry* is interesting and many will enjoy his special chapters on the art of using guns as practiced by frontier fighters. It is amply illustrated.

BERNICE COSULICH.