

The Buffalo War: The History of the Red River Indian Uprising of 1874, by James L. Haley. Garden City, New York: Doubleday and Company, 1976. XXII, pp. 290. Illustrations, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography and index. \$7.95.

All too frequently the perimeters of western history have been set by narrative expositions more chronological and descriptive than analytical and interpretive. Haley's attempt to write a scholarly and readable synthesis of the causes and events of the Red River War of 1874-1875 meets with the usual mixed results.

Many important participants such as General John Pope and Quannah Parker and dramatic episodes like the battles of Adobe Walls and Palo Duro Canyon have already found their historians, but Haley aspires to author the first comprehensive study of the entire war. Unfortunately, Haley is most at ease and effective in his examination of the conflict, not its causes. Numerous treaty violations and depredations by white buffalo hunters and horse thieves may have precipitated the war, but the more illusive federal, regional, and military affairs lying behind the most obvious remain obscured by inadequate or superficial treatment. Nevertheless, Haley's fresh, fast-paced, and thoroughly absorbing account of "the final campaign of the white man versus the Southern Plains Indians" [dust jacket] justly deserves acclaim by scholars and general readers alike.

Doubleday and Haley are to be complimented for a generally well produced work of nonfiction. A rich bibliography and numerous photographs and maps are pertinent and informative as well as entertaining. However, the publisher also deserves harsh criticism for subjecting all readers to an absurd system of source citation incorporating unnumbered backnotes identified only by reference to the appropriate page and key words or phrases appearing in the text. The most reasonable price of this volume is of some compensation for this awkward method of footnoting, but this system will forever remain a poor bargain at any price. Notwithstanding this and a few other shortcomings, Haley's book will be a genuinely welcome addition to anyone's library.

—James A. Hamilton
University of New Mexico

The Fifties: The Way We Really Were, by Douglas T. Miller and Marion Nowak. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1977. pp. 444.

In *The Fifties: The Way We Really Were*, Douglas T. Miller and Marion Nowak explore the "Good Old Days"—those "fabulous 1950s." Showing that today's nostalgia can be highly selective, the authors describe a decade covering events that most might want to forget—the antics of Senator Joseph McCarthy, homogenized tract-built housing developments, and 3-D movies.

It was a complex time. As Miller and Nowak argue, "The decade began with terror and affluence uniting a people under a national faith. The mid-fifties, desperately tired of crises, continued that faith in a more casual and relaxed manner. Yet by 1960, that mask of faith was drawn aside to reveal a changing face: regretful, doubting, yet also looking in hope to a rebirth." (p. 18) As indicated, the authors develop a useful periodization: 1948-1953—"The Age of Fear"—characterized by the Korean War, McCarthyism, and the spread of atomic weaponry; 1954-1957—"The Era of Conservative Consensus" when Dwight David Eisenhower became the national symbol of hope and confidence and Norman Vincent Peale's *The Power of Positive Thinking* enjoyed "best-seller" status; and lastly, 1958-1960—"The Time of National Reassessment"—prompted in part by the Soviet Union's Sputnik, the world's first earth-orbiting satellite.

Whenever one reads a book devoted to a single decade of American history, there is the tendency to compare it with Frederick Lewis Allen's study of the twenties, *Only Yesterday*. Fortunately, the Miller and Nowak work has all the strengths of Allen's 1931 book, but none of its weaknesses. Both *Only Yesterday* and *The Fifties* are highly readable—they are a fun experience. But unlike Allen, Miller and Nowak do not focus on the colorful and episodic. Their book is "meaty"—one that future interpreters of the 1950s will have to consider.

The research for *The Fifties* is impressive. The authors immersed themselves in the historic sources of the decade—old movies, popular magazines and newspapers, and the best scholarly secondary works. Moreover, Doubleday published a marvelous collection of fifties photographs and included the authors' useful chronology of the decade. While Douglas T. Miller and Marion Nowak cogently challenge *Life* magazine's contention of "The Nifty Fifties," this is without question a "nifty" book.

—H. Roger Grant
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Nauvoo: City of Joseph, by David E. Miller and Della S. Miller. Santa Barbara, California, and Salt Lake City, Utah: Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1974. pp. ix, 264, Illustrations. \$10.00.

Nauvoo, Illinois today is a wonderful ghost town, alive with the departed spirits of Mormon pioneers and French communitarians (Cabet's Icarians). In 1844, it was the largest city in the state with a prosperous, growing population of 12,000. It possessed its own army (the Nauvoo Legion), university (the state chartered University of the City of Nauvoo), and a city charter which made it an independent theocratic state within a state. The Nauvoo Temple, the most elaborate and splendid building in "the west" was a tourist attraction. All this came to a dramatically abrupt and violent end in less than seven years.

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