

western United States. Steiner has spent many years getting to know some of the people in this book. Others are more recent acquaintances, people he met over a cup of coffee or a bottle of beer. Not surprisingly then, Steiner writes that "this is not a Gallup poll, nor a sociological study nor a statistical study of ranchers and ranching. This is an appreciation of a way of life, a homage, a requiem, and a celebration, an invocation of the spirit."

Chapter titles in *The Ranchers* include "In the Beginning," "The Old Days," "Communities of Rugged Individualists," and "School Days." Steiner's additional chapters on women and the young ranchers of the present are particularly welcome. Within each of these eight chapters, Steiner uses good editorial judgment to limit each recollection to no more than two or three pages. Often it is less. This brevity maintains the reader's attention and allows Steiner to introduce each piece with a paragraph or two. Happily, these remarks never intrude. In fact, they unify the book. Thus, *The Ranchers* grips and flows at the same time.

That Steiner is a master of his writing craft should be no surprise to anyone who has read any of his dozen earlier works, including his award-winning *La Raza: The Mexican Americans* (1969). Nor should it be a surprise coming from a man who states that "writing is not a career; it is a religion." Steiner and his writing gods should be particularly proud of his epilogue. It tells of his last meeting with Boyd Charter, a tough sinewy man whose words and philosophy pepper the book. Charter is dying of cancer. He knows it. Steiner knows it. This account of their last visit together is no maudlin six-page finale. It is a moving dedication of the book that reveals Steiner's sensitivity and his affinity for his ranching friends.

Students of the West will be grateful to Stan Steiner for this mosaic of ranch life.

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STEPHEN R. BROGDEN

*The Chisholm Trail: High Road of the Cattle Kingdom*, by Don Worcester. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1980. pp. xx, 207. Photographs, notes, bibliography, index. \$14.50.

The cattle kingdoms and trail drives of the American West lasted no more than twenty-five years, but in many respects this was the most memorable era in the nation's history. During the time of the cattle drives, from the 1860s to the 1890s, the cowboy became a legendary figure, an American folk hero; and this heroic cowboy acquired his

stature in America's collective imagination, literature, cinema, and memory along the cattle trails which stretched from southern Texas, northward through Indian Territory, to the railheads in Kansas. The most famous of these routes was the Chisholm Trail.

The Chisholm Trail was named after Jesse Chisholm, a Scotch-Cherokee Indian trader who in 1865 began hauling goods from his trading post, located near the future site of Wichita, Kansas, to various Indian camps on the North Canadian River, approximately 200 miles south. Thus, as Texas cattlemen began to drive their herds northward toward Kansas railroads, Chisholm's name was applied to the entire route.

Originating in south Texas around San Antonio, San Marcos, or Austin, the Chisholm Trail moved north through Waco and Fort Worth, and crossed into Indian Territory at Red River Station. Stretching across the future Oklahoma towns of Duncan, Chickasha, El Reno, and Enid, the trail entered Kansas at Caldwell, and continued on to the rail terminus at Abilene. Along this trail the legends of the American West were born.

Author Don Worcester, a distinguished historian of the American West, has recreated in prose and photograph the world of the cowboys on the Chisholm Trail. From the nascent days of the cattle roundups to the apex of the huge cattle syndicates, Worcester blends his account to include every aspect of the cattle kingdoms. Based upon a combination of sound scholarship and good reading, *The Chisholm Trail* covers in detail such topics as the cows, cooks, and cowboys, as well as the roundups, the trail boss, and the cattle towns.

Worcester uses an extensive bibliography and detailed documentation to support his vigorous narrative. *The Chisholm Trail*, factually accurate, well researched, and beautifully written, preserves this epic of American history with proper perspective and insightful understanding.

LANGSTON UNIVERSITY

W. EDWIN DERRICK

*The Arrow and the Cross: A History of the American Indians and the Missionaries*, by John Upton Terrell. Santa Barbara, California: Capra Press, 1979. pp. 253. Tables, bibliography, notes. \$14.95.

Forthrightly sympathetic to the Indians, this history depicts more than three hundred years (1539-1847) of cultural and physical conflict west and south of the Missouri between militant, prosletizing Christianity and the anthropomorphism and animism of the natives residing

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