

period of the trans-Mississippi frontier of an expanding United States. To take just one western subregion, twentieth-century California—which has furnished much of the produce for U.S. grocery stores, makes most of the movies that are called “westerns,” and has supplied two Republican presidents since the end of World War II—apparently is not a part of the American West, at least according to this work. So then, is the West a place or only a frontier process?

Series producers Steven Ives and Ken Burns try to plant themselves in between an older mythic West which is “an unbroken series of triumphs” and a newer mythic West which is a story of self-serving “conquest and dispossession,” and in between the West as “a unique part of the country” and the West as “a metaphor for the country as a whole” (xvii). The result is a more inclusive, less triumphalist West, yet it still bears more than a passing resemblance to the old mythic West. Aside from sustaining conventional delimitations to the where and the when of the West, the book’s “human face” focus prevents Ward and his associates from considering themes which, though impersonal, may be more consequential to western history than biography, such as the role of the federal government, the predominantly urban character of western society, and the connection of the West to a larger world order of markets, technology, and communications.

The West, then, does not fundamentally alter the old story of the West. Insofar as it broadens the cast of characters included, it is an encouraging and engaging story. Insofar as it does not broaden the setting and the time frame of the story nor provide any compelling framework for assessing social and cultural forces larger than individual heroes and heroines, it is a misleading story. The book is not a glass half empty, but it is not more than a glass half full.

Big Bluestem: Journey Into the Tall Grass, by Annick Smith, with photography by Harvey Payne. Tulsa, OK: Council Oak Books for The Nature Conservancy, 1996. 287 pp. Color and black-and-white photographs, diagrams, maps, other illustrations, annotated bibliography, index. \$34.95 cloth.

REVIEWED BY REBECCA CONARD, WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY AND TALL-GRASS HISTORIANS L.C.

Big Bluestem: Journey Into the Tall Grass is a visual feast served up with high-calorie text. Nature writer Annick Smith, also known for producing the film *Heartland* and coproducing *A River Runs Through It*, has written an exquisite natural and cultural history of the land from which came the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in Osage County,

Oklahoma. It is solid history written for a wide audience, resplendent with historic photographs, artwork, maps, diagrams, and the nature photography of Harvey Payne, an attorney who also serves as the preserve's director.

In 1989 The Nature Conservancy purchased about thirty thousand acres of the Chapman-Barnard Ranch and established the largest tallgrass prairie preserve in the United States, more than three times larger than the Conservancy's Konza Research Natural Area near Manhattan, Kansas. Since then, prairie restoration efforts have begun at two more large preserves: Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge at Prairie City, Iowa, and the National Tallgrass Prairie Preserve in the Flint Hills of Chase County, Kansas. Given the controversy that surrounded the establishment of all four, it is obvious that The Nature Conservancy conceived the book, at least in part, as a public relations piece; and publication was generously supported by several patrons, including CITGO Petroleum Corporation, The Robert S. & Grayce B. Kerr Foundation, and Mary Barnard Lawrence and Ruth Hardman. Even so, this commissioned work, backed by private funding, bears little resemblance to the stereotypical commemorative history or the showy coffee table photo book.

In the first two chapters, Smith metaphorically wades into the natural history of tallgrass prairies, exploring the grasses and forbs in "Begin with Grass" and tracking the "Beasts of the Field" through prehistory and history. Chapters three and four, "Seeding with Fire" and "Bison in the Tallgrass," explain the Conservancy's management approach, which is to "rekindle" prairie ecology through periodic burning and regulated bison grazing. In the words of wildlife biologist Bob Hamilton, the preserve's scientific director, "We are trying to restart the engine, mimic what we think is a functional landscape" (38).

Chapter five, "The Last Free Lunch," introduces the human dramas played out on the tallgrass prairie beginning with Coronado's expedition in 1541. "Oklahoma stands at the juncture of North and South, East and West, and its human history, like its natural history," Smith observes, "may be seen as a crucible where disparate elements have met, mixed, and melded" (125). In this and subsequent chapters, she deftly weaves through the complex and rough history of Indian removal, cattle ranching, oil extraction, and the booms and busts of towns such as Pawhuska, named for the Osage chief Paw-Hiu-Skah, meaning "White Hair." It is a story in which victors and victims intertwine through time, twisting deep into the past, much like the ancient root systems of the tallgrass prairie itself. Smith delves into the recent history of conflicting values and attitudes inherent in "The Politics of Preservation," the final chapter. An epilogue, "Dancing Back

the Buffalo," draws on the symbology of the late nineteenth-century Ghost Dance to revisit the vision of regeneration that guides preserve management.

The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. Volume 9, The Journals of John Ordway, May 14, 1804–September 23, 1806, and Charles Floyd, May 14, 1804–August 18, 1804, edited by Gary E. Moulton. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1995. xix, 419 pp. Notes, maps, index. \$55.00 cloth. Volume 10, *The Journal of Patrick Gass, May 14, 1804–September 23, 1806*, edited by Gary E. Moulton. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1996. xiii, 300 pp. Notes, maps, index. \$55.00 cloth.

REVIEWED BY ROGER L. NICHOLS, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Having completed their impressive editing of the actual journals of Lewis and Clark, Gary E. Moulton and his staff have turned their considerable skills to completing the saga of the 1804–1806 expedition by editing the journals kept by some of the enlisted men on the trip. These two volumes include the records of three of the enlisted men known to have written any. All three were sergeants and clearly had more time and perhaps a better command of English than many of their companions. The accounts of John Ordway and Patrick Gass trace the full extent of the expedition. In fact, Ordway's narrative even has entries for the few days that William Clark failed to write anything. Sergeant Floyd died during the summer of 1804, so his journal is by far the shortest of the surviving records.

Not much is known about any of the three journalists. Neither Lewis nor Clark mention much about any of these men, which may indicate that the officers thought that their subordinates were doing their work well. Of the three, John Ordway provided the most thorough account by an enlisted man. He had served in the First Infantry in Illinois before volunteering for the expedition. After returning to St. Louis in 1806, he settled in Missouri as a farmer. By 1817 he had died. Charles Floyd joined the explorers from civilian life. He was a cousin of Sergeant Nathaniel Pryor and may also have been related to William Clark. Apparently an able man, although he lacked military experience, Floyd was the only one of the explorers who died on the job. His death came in August 1804 as the party worked its way up the Missouri between Iowa and Nebraska. His grave stands at Sioux City, Iowa. Patrick Gass, the third of these journalists, had served with Ordway in the First Infantry in Illinois. He appears to have been a carpenter. Lewis and Clark chose him as sergeant when Floyd died. After returning east in 1807, he published his account independently

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