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From the Editor

There was a lot to experience and learn at the TLA Annual Conference this year, and one of the highlights of this year’s conference was the general session speech of ALA Executive Director Bill Gordon. In his address he outlined some of the core values of librarianship, a subject which has received a lot of attention at recent American Library Association conferences. With all of the distractions in our everyday work life – problem patrons, problem colleagues, pressure to provide new levels of service, pressures from the technology -- it is important to refocus on the basic roles librarians should play in our society. It is to be hoped that ALA will continue to work on the core values statement drafted in 1998 and not allow it to be lost in arguments over details.

This issue of *Tennessee Librarian* includes an article examining one of the core services of libraries, the provision of recreational reading collections, specifically those in Tennessee academic libraries. The authors’ survey of college libraries offers some interesting insight into the purpose of this type of collection in a college library as well as the way college library’s view their role in the community. Also included is the latest installment of the Tennessee Bibliography, a unique resource for building collections. The number and diversity of books in this annual feature are always impressive.

*Mark Ellis, East Tennessee State Univ.*

With all of the controversy over education funding this year, it was a relief to know that the Tennessee Electronic Library would live for at least another year. As a tribute to TEL and as a record of its benefits, we would like to propose an issue of *Tennessee Librarian* devoted to the importance of TEL in our libraries. We are looking for articles about TEL in all types of libraries. If you have written about TEL in your library or are interested in writing an article, we would like to include it in an upcoming issue.
The weekend has arrived. After an intense week at work, you look forward to spending some leisure time reading a new bestseller. If you are a member of a university community, you might decide to stop by the campus library on your way home. There is a good chance you may have difficulty finding current popular fiction in the academic library collection. Your university library may be among those that do not maintain separate recreational reading collections or have a limited selection of new popular titles shelved in the regular collection.

The authors were interested in learning if East Tennessee State University’s Sherrod Library was typical of other academic libraries in not providing a separate browsing collection of current popular titles to support recreational reading. Webster defines recreation as “refreshment of strength and spirits after work; also: a means of refreshment or diversion”. (Merriam-Webster 2000) Libraries may also refer to these collections as “popular” or “leisure” reading areas.

The decision was made to conduct a survey of Tennessee’s academic libraries during the summer of 1999. In addition to learning if the libraries provide recreational reading collections, the authors were interested in details about the collections. The emphasis of the survey was on recreational reading
collections that are separate from the regular collection. The results of the survey would assist the Sherrod Library faculty in planning for a recreational reading area in the new library.

**Past Research on Recreational Reading**

Literature on the subject of recreational reading collections is very limited. In 1982, Paul Wiener conducted an in-depth survey of 110 academic libraries of all sizes. Eighty-three libraries responded to the survey. Of those, 61.4% said they provide recreational reading services to their campuses. Wiener notes this figure was an increase of 11.4% when compared to the only similar survey he found from 1975 by Susan Marks. However, Ms. Marks surveyed only the thirty largest university libraries in the U.S. The Wiener survey included many smaller universities and community colleges, whose libraries usually have different objectives from large university libraries. Wiener reports on the variety found in recreational reading services as far as structure, budgeting and management. He feels that this diversity may account for their continued success. (Wiener 1982)

It is interesting to note that in 1982, Wiener’s rationale for the continued growth of recreational reading services in academics is based on “current broad demographic, cultural and technological trends”. He also notes that, “increasing dependence on microforms, computer printouts and video display may make the book more precious, more sensual and a highly sought-after recreational resource”. (Wiener 1982) This statement could easily have been made today. His prediction that students will have more leisure time due to a decrease in assigned papers may be questioned.

More recently, Linda Morrissett surveyed 120 academic libraries in the southeastern states about leisure reading collections. Of the eighty-five libraries responding, 45% indicated that leisure-reading collections were included in their library. She noted that the size of the institution did not appear
to be a factor in whether a library had a leisure collection, but a larger sample would be needed to determine a correlation. With 89% of the libraries providing bibliographic access to their leisure collections, Morrissett sees an indication of the importance they place on the collection. This study also revealed a variety in composition and management of leisure collections. She concludes, “academic librarians do have an interest in promoting recreational reading. A separate leisure reading area spotlights and promotes extracurricular reading, which may often be overlooked in an academic environment.” (Morrissett 1994)

Book leasing options for popular collections in academic libraries were discussed in 1976 by Ruth Ann Cushman, and by Janelle Zauha in 1998. The results of the 1976 questionnaire on the use of lease plans in academic libraries revealed a high circulation of titles along with very positive reactions from patrons. The percentage of books in circulation ranged from 25% to 90%, with the majority of libraries reporting 50% or more always in circulation. (Cushman 1976) Zauha believed that “the lack of published research dealing with recreational reading collections is further evidence of our disinclination to seriously consider their place in the library.” With remote electronic access so widely available, she predicts that rather than a place one must go for information, the library of the future may become a place where users choose to go and discover the “creative worlds found in popular fiction and other recreational reading materials.” (Zauha 1998)

Survey of Tennessee Academic Libraries

The survey was sent to forty academic libraries in Tennessee, with thirty responding. Twenty-one (70%) of those libraries reported that they currently have separate recreational reading collections. This included 100% of the 12 two-year colleges and 50% (9) of the 18 four-year colleges.

The results of this brief survey seem to indicate several trends regarding the
Tennessee community college libraries tend to place more emphasis on the provision of separate recreational reading collections than four-year college or university libraries. The majority of librarians at the two-year schools ranked the collections as “very important” while those responding from four-year schools felt they were “somewhat important.”

Based on survey comments and personal work experience, it seems that the community college library views its role as providing resources for the student, faculty and staff population, as well as the surrounding community population. With such a consistently wide patron base, the community college sees the need to provide popular fiction and other leisure reading in the library. The survey results show that this is not always the case with four-year schools, whose purpose is often seen as strictly research.

The responding four-year school libraries that do not have separate recreational reading collections generally felt there is low demand, or that a leisure collection does not fit with the educational and research mission of the school. One such library does purchase recreational titles, but the books are classed in the appropriate LC literature classification and shelved with the regular collection. The responding librarian felt that this may be a handicap at times, but points out that the primary purpose of the academic library she represents is not leisure reading. While only 50% of the responding four-year schools have a separate recreational reading collection, the comments on these collections were positive. Several librarians supported their library’s decision to have separate leisure collections because they are located in rural areas. They feel an obligation to provide recreational reading materials for their community, including those outside the university. Another justification for such collections is the use of them by developmental Reading and English classes. Instructors frequently ask students in these classes to read an entire
book of their choice, and oftentimes they select this book from the recreational reading collection. Other libraries report the desire to have such collections, but budget constraints preclude them. A library that had used a leasing program to build a recreational collection in the 1970’s had to suspend the program when the budget was cut in later years. The library has since had requests to reinstate the program, but cannot seem to justify the funds.

A second trend indicated by the survey results is the variety in the collections themselves. This variety seems evident in several areas. Libraries acquire books for the recreational reading collections by leasing, purchasing, or donation. Many libraries use a combination of methods. The use of hardbacks and paperbacks is also mixed, as is access to and arrangement of the collection itself. Seven libraries offer full bibliographic records for the recreational collection, while eight offer brief records and five reported offering no bibliographic records for their recreational collection. One library reported that half of their bibliographic records are full, while the remaining records are brief. It seems that every type of arrangement method is used among the libraries for their recreational collections, ranging from no specific arrangement at all, to Library of Congress call number order. These results may indicate that making the decision to build a separate collection to support recreational reading is more important than the way in which it is done.

A third trend identified through survey results is an effort to make recreational reading collections as visible and accessible as possible to patrons. While the actual location of the recreational collection varied, including the main floor, front entrance, periodical area, and reading room among others, there seems to be a common goal of putting these collections in high traffic areas. Many of the responding librarians mentioned the use of signage to draw attention to the collection. Two librarians specifically noted placing the recreational reading collection in areas where couches and other lounge
furniture is available. These results show that Tennessee academic libraries with recreational collections do place importance on their use by patrons.

Finally, significant patron input into recreational reading collections is encouraged. A majority of responding librarians indicate that the heaviest users of the recreational reading collection are students, with faculty and staff being the significant other groups of users. While librarians play an important role in the selection of materials for the recreational reading collection, most of the surveyed libraries indicate that their patrons have input into acquisitions for the collection by submitting suggestions. This may encourage more use of the collection by patrons, since they have a vested interest in the books selected for the collection.

Overall, the survey results seem to show that despite static or declining book budgets, recreational reading collections continue to hold a place in many Tennessee academic libraries.

**Recreational Reading Collection at ETSU**

Based on the survey results, a book-leasing program was proposed and initiated during the fall 1999 semester as a means of building a recreational reading collection at ETSU’s new library. As plans for the library were finalized, an endowment was established in memory of a former ETSU faculty member. It was intended to provide a collection of books that would “encourage reading for pleasure and learning”. This endowment currently funds 50% of the lease plan, with the balance being funded from the library materials budget. Only one library in the survey reported using endowment funds for their recreational reading collection.

The collection at ETSU is located in the periodicals department on the second floor, along with current issues of popular periodicals and newspapers. Comfortable chairs, ottomans and plenty of natural light invite readers to spend
time here. An effort is being made to publicize the new collection using displays, signage and the library web page.

The loan period for the leased books was initially set up identical to books in the regular collection. This was also done in the majority of surveyed libraries. 71% of the libraries reported keeping circulation statistics on the books in recreational reading collections. Since ETSU faculty may check out books for an entire semester, circulation statistics on an individual book may not accurately reflect the popularity of a book. However, as the new monthly selections arrive, the books that have not circulated can be returned in exchange. Circulation statistics will identify the heaviest users and also report the percentage of leased books in circulation at any given time, thus providing an indication of the overall popularity of the collection and justification for continued funding. 42% of the leased books were in circulation by mid-February 2000. The new popular collection has also been the impetus for a future faculty/student book discussion group.

What does the future hold for the state of recreational reading collections? The definition of a book is rapidly evolving. Electronic books can now be read through any number of hardware devices and are available at libraries. Future research on recreational reading collections may include information on the number of popular e-book titles that a library can provide to its users. By choosing access rather than ownership, libraries may continue to provide current bestsellers in a timely and cost effective manner.
Notes


Appendix

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<th>Type of Institution</th>
<th>Number Responding</th>
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**Details about the recreational reading collections**

*How Books are Acquired*

- 100% Purchased: 3
- 100% Leased: 7
- 100% Donations: 1
- Combination of the above: 10

*Funding*

- Budget Allocation: 20
- Other: 1-Endowment

*Title Suggestions/Selections*

- Librarians: 3
- Patrons: 1
- Both librarians and patron: 14
- Other: 3

*Bibliographic Access*

- Full records: 7
- Brief records: 8
- None: 5
- Other: 1-brief & full
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*15 libraries reported keeping circulation statistics
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Tennessee Bibliography
Titles Published in 2000

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Braggs, Earl S. *House on Fontanka.* Tallahassee, Fla.: Anhinga Press, 2000. 120pp. Author is a professor at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga.


________. *Unarmed and Dangerous: New and Selected Poems*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000. 179pp. Author is a professor at the University of the South.


Willis, John C. *Forgotten Time: The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta After the Civil War.* Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2000. 239pp. Author is a professor at the University of the South.


Scholars are occasionally blessed with a wealth of research material in their field of study happily housed in one place and one collection, making their efforts much easier. One thinks, for instance, of what the Draper Manuscripts (State Historical Society of Wisconsin) and the Durrett Papers (University of Chicago) have provided historians of the early American frontier; or of what the Bancroft collection (University of California, Berkeley) and the Coe collection (Yale University) have done for students of the American West. It is rare in this age of institutional collecting for individuals to build collections so significant. Yet, that apparently is what has occurred in the efforts of an anonymous collector in Mississippi, whose collection was recently acquired and processed by the Center for American History at the University of Texas in Austin.

Beginning after World War I, this unnamed amateur collector began acquiring historical papers, business and legal records, and a vast array of other documents that eventually filled numerous storage buildings on a Mississippi plantation. This collection, dubbed by the Center as the Natchez Trace Collection, is likely to become one of the most significant finds of historical material available on the history of the South. In a noble effort, too rarely undertaken by other institutions, the Center brought together several noted scholars to examine various aspects of this vast collection and to describe for others what information was available and how the collection might be used in future research on American Southern history. This book collects those individual appraisals into well-written chapters, which examine such topics...
from a regional perspective as slavery, women, business and entrepreneurial
development, Jacksonian politics, sectional conflict, and other historical issues
on 18th and 19th century Mississippi, Louisiana, and the Old Southwest.

Publishing a book of this type does a great service. It not only makes an
important collection of primary source material known to scholars, it shows to
what use such a collection (otherwise overwhelming) can be put. If other
collections had similar guides, more use might be made of such resources in
archives and manuscript repositories throughout the country. I especially liked
the specific examples of thesis and dissertation topics that might be (and in
some cases that already have been) undertaken as a result of this collection.
Other suggestions for potential research topics not previously explored are also
noted.

The book may be too narrow in focus for some Tennessee libraries, but it
should be added as a reference work by any academic library that emphasizes
research on the American South.

Ned L. Irwin
Archives of Appalachia
East Tennessee State University

Brown, Fred and Jeanne McDonald.  *The Serpent Handlers: Three Families

In *The Serpent Handlers*, Fred Brown and Jeanne McDonald, a husband-and-
wife-team, relate the stories of three serpent-handling families in the southern
Appalachians: The Brown family of Cocke County, Tennessee; the Coots
family of Middlesboro, Kentucky; and the Elkins family of Jolo, West
Virginia. Serpent handlers are more generally known as the Church of God
with Signs Following. Few in numbers, these small, usually rural
congregations point to a strict literal interpretation of Mark 16:17-20 as the
basis for their snake-handling beliefs. The signs themselves include
1) speaking in tongues, 2) casting out demons, 3) handling serpents, 4) drinking deadly things, and 5) healing the sick. Often misunderstood by the public, this sect has also frequently come under the scrutiny of the law in many states and municipalities. Many southern states have banned the practice of serpent handling.

Brown, a Knoxville News-Sentinel feature writer, has covered snake-handling Christians for fifteen years. Unlike other journalists, his reporting of the sect’s beliefs and practices has always been unbiased and free of sensationalism. As a result, he earned the respect and trust of many of the sect’s leaders. Brown and McDonald interviewed members of each family and visited their worship services for a first-hand account of their faith and religious practice. The families were allowed to read and approve the book’s final text to insure accuracy and eliminate any misunderstanding. The book includes fifty-four black-and-white photographs, many taken by Brown himself during his visits to members’ homes and snake-handling church services.

While other accounts of snake handling have focused on its sensational aspects, Brown and McDonald’s respectful, non-judgmental approach is especially refreshing. Because of their unique relationship with the three subject families, the authors have provided the reader with unique insights into a much-misunderstood aspect of Christianity. Through the personal stories of the Signs Followers, Brown and McDonald provide the reader with a new appreciation of the faith and dedication of these believers.

Highly recommended for public and academic libraries.

Rick Bower
Reference Librarian
Pellissippi State Technical Community College
Crowned the “First Lady of Country Music,” Tammy Wynette captured our imagination with her rags to riches story and continual success in Nashville’s cutthroat entertainment industry. Drawing fire from feminists for her 1968 hit “Stand by your man,” Wynette belted out ballads, married several times and entered treatment for substance abuse. *Tammy Wynette* covers the years since 1979 when Wynette published her autobiography, *Stand By Your Man*. Co-author Tom Carter specializes in ghost writing biographies of country music stars including George Jones, Reba McEntire, and Merle Haggard. Carter’s familiarity with the genre and audience makes the book accessible to a general audience. Country music fans will find the text a breeze, though the book is confusing early on because there are many non-essential characters introduced to the reader. Never before published personal family photographs are included in the book.

Beginning with the day of Wynette’s death, Daly expresses her frustration and despair with the perplexing details and inconsistencies she encountered at her mother’s home. The majority of the book describes Daly’s experience growing up with a larger than life absentee mother. Special treatment is given to Wynette’s spouse, George Richey, and his growing control over Wynette’s life and his attempt to isolate her from family and friends. Daly supplies reasons for the legal battle forcing an autopsy of Wynette’s body and justifies the daughters’ actions, which polarized Nashville. Allegations against Richey, Wynette’s personal physician Dr. Marsh, and Care Solutions of Nashville, Inc. claiming negligence and wrongful-death are explained.

Daly doesn’t include complete legal documents but does excerpt portions of Wynette’s last will and testament and a consent form she signed authorizing Care Solutions of Nashville to provide at-home medical care. Richey and
Marsh’s viewpoints are not included, thus making the account biased toward Wynette’s daughters. On a positive note, Daly documents Wynette’s dedication to her fans. Despite chronic declining health, Wynette performed with oxygen waiting just off-stage.

This title is recommended for large public libraries or those with country music collections.

Rebecca Tolley-Stokes
East Tennessee State University


The popular literature of environmental history of North America does not often recognize the influence of either the Native Americans or the early Spanish explorers and colonizers, yet both had a share in the modification of the environment of the Appalachians. It is with these influences that Prof. Donald Davis of Dalton College begins his discussion covering more than 400 years of environmental change from 1500 to 1935. For this purpose, "Southern Appalachia" is defined as the Cumberland Plateau, the Ridge Valley, and the Blue Ridge Mountains, or roughly, from the New River southward to northern Georgia and northwestern Alabama.

It was the Anglo-American settlement of the Appalachians, however, which had the most profound effect on the change of its environment. These changes are detailed here, including the introduction of both new plants and animals, building methods, farming, animal husbandry, deforestation --especially the logging industry during the late 1800's and early 1900's-- as well as mining, although the latter receives less attention. The author is himself a product of Appalachia and speaks sensitively of his "homeland," so there is a decided bent toward viewing the environmental change of the centuries as detrimental, but
the tone is not polemical. Both the notes and the bibliography --nearly one quarter of the volume--add immeasurably to the value of the work. Recommended for collections on Appalachian and American history, as well as environmental studies.

Wayne Maxson
Sewanee, Tennessee


Yet another book on a sport that has burgeoned in popularity in recent years. While the title might suggest quite a bit more, this book is mostly a listing of flies the author has found effective on waters in the Southeast United States. There is no focus on the history of fly tying or particular flies, and little distinction made between "native" flies and those imported from other areas of the country.

The layout is that of a field manual: a strict concise table of contents, followed by fly-by-fly descriptions with pictures and written instructions on how to tie. Notes on fly tying technique follow the main body of the work, and the index reflects each fly by name, and some subject matter. Most of the book consists of graphics of individual flies with written commentary on how to tie them. There are no photographs or graphics showing the tying methods, merely the finished product is shown. The use of standard nomenclature of fly tying is observed. However, the lack of instructional photos on methodology makes this aspect unfriendly to the novice fly tier. For those just starting out in the sport, who need more detailed instruction, Randall Kaufman's *Tying Dry Flies* and *Tying Nymphs* are much better sources. Though some anecdotes are
relayed, they are scattered, and insights into various streams in the Southeast are almost nonexistent.

The author is a professor at the University of Tennessee, and he is clearly well versed in flies, fly tying and the materials used. He maintains a web site that adds additional information to the sport in our area. This book, while a valuable resource, does not cover which streams to fish, with what flies, nor does it deliver any information on the "how to do it" of fly fishing, only the tying of various flies that can be used in the Southeast United States. Taken at that level, this book carries its task well. Unfortunately, it adds little to the lore of the geographic origins of flies, a topic begging to be explored further.

All in all, if fly tying is your goal, and the title of this book isn't taken too seriously, it may just "hook" you.

Tim Matheson and Ron Greene
Bristol, Tennessee


*Banners to the Breeze*, part of the Great Campaigns of the Civil War series edited by Anne J. Bailey, examines Confederate attempts to recover lost ground from June 1862 until January 1863. This work is much more than a battlefield account. The author uses a variety of sources to explain the social, geographical, personal, as well as the military dynamics occurring throughout the western theater.

Of particular note is Hess’s explanation of geography’s role in the Kentucky Campaign, Corinth, and Stones River. As the author skillfully demonstrates, Appalachia posed unique and special obstacles for the Confederacy. The terrain itself was mountainous and difficult to traverse. Battle weary soldiers would often be forced to push heavy artillery up steep inclines. Furthermore, the landscape offered very little for troops, hoping to forage for food for
themselves and their work animals. The mountains also provided ample cover for Union sympathizers to snipe and launch guerilla attacks. Hess pays equal attention to the other landscapes and environs, and he is careful to explain how the changing landscapes impacted the soldiers.

Another strength of *Banners to the Breeze* is the attention Hess gives to the personalities of the soldiers, commanders, and politicians. The book powerfully demonstrates this in its examination of Jefferson Davis' refusal to replace Bragg, even after Bragg's failure in Kentucky. Hess explains that the reason for Davis' stubborn refusal to replace Bragg was because he liked and got along well with him, unlike Bragg's most likely replacement, Joseph E. Johnston. Most Confederate officers believed Bragg was a liability in the West and should be removed from command, but Bragg was able to keep his command simply because Davis liked him.

The one glaring feature missing from the text is footnotes. Instead of using footnotes or endnotes, the author includes a short bibliographic essay for each chapter at the end of the book. While this feature may not be important for all library clients, for those reading for research purposes, the essays are useful but make tracking down facts and quotes much more difficult.

Overall, this book is recommended. The author’s writing style is lively and smooth even in recounting battle movements. Also included in the book are several battlefield maps, portraits of some of the participants, and photos of various battlefields. The combined emphasis on personalities and environment, as well as the military aspects of the fighting, give this work great depth.

The nature and focus of *Banners to the Breeze* lends itself to academic libraries, but the work may also be a good fit for public libraries with strong Civil War, Kentucky, or Tennessee collections. The only caveat is that since
the focus is narrow, the book is not recommended for someone just beginning to read Civil War history.

Lisa Ennis
Instruction Librarian
Georgia College & State University


Between 1900 and 1930, reformers flocked to Tennessee's rural agricultural counties. The Rosenwald Fund, the Anna T. Jeanes Foundation, the Rockefeller Sanitary Fund, and the newly created Federal and State bureaucracies came to "transform and uplift country people" through education. Mary Hoffschwelle brings this interesting experiment to life in her book, *Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community*, winner of the 1998 Tennessee History Book Award.

Rural public schools were the first target. The reformers wanted to consolidate schools and replace existing buildings with new modern ones. The Tennessee Department of Education developed standardized plans based on current ideas about school architecture. In exchange for the loss of some autonomy, and the humiliation of hearing their present school buildings dismissed as woefully inadequate, communities received funding for improvements such as sanitary privies, double floors to eliminate drafts, and in some cases, Greek columns.

Reformers turned next to rural homemakers, thought to be the key to "modern, comfortable and sanitary homes." Home economics was introduced in the schools in the hope that students would carry improved homemaking methods home to their mothers. Extension agents offered homemakers classes in canning, rug making, and other skills. Reformers wanted to introduce
modern appliances into rural homes and formed alliances with local businessmen. The book provides a wonderful description of "home improvement" days. All over rural Tennessee, homemakers came to town for a day of activities; lectures by local bankers on how checking accounts worked, tours of appliance stores that included promotional gifts, extension classes on topics like the ideal living room, and picnic lunches.

The author questions the success of the experiment. The reformers came from outside the community and did not listen carefully to the local people. Some projects were embraced and some vigorously rejected, but often community members were indifferent. The reformers believed that changing the material environment would change lives. They ignored the racism, farm tenancy, and disenfranchisement that made rural life a burden for many. It is hard to separate the effects of the reformers work from all the other changes made from 1910 to 1930. During these years the country fought a war and started the long slide in farm prices that marked the beginning of the Great Depression.

The book is based on the author's dissertation, and contains lengthy notes and an extensive bibliography. Nevertheless, the book is very readable. The author’s theories are brought to life by descriptions of people and places. Recommended for large public libraries and for any academic library where education, women's studies, or Tennessee history is taught.

Willa Reister
Knox County Public Library


In an era before celebrities like Shania, Garth, Reba, and Clint, even before Loretta, Tammy, George, Lester and Earl, before modern megaliths and
country music dominated Nashville’s cultural climate, there was Francis Craig. Dr. Robert W. Ikard’s new book, *Near You: Francis Craig, Dean of Southern Maestros*, is a satisfying biography of the band leader’s life and career in Nashville from the early 1900’s through the 1960’s. The author frames Craig’s life within a fascinating account of the history of Nashville and the early radio and music recording industry.

This biography chronicles Craig’s life starting with his birth in Dickson, Tennessee in 1900, his matriculation at Vanderbilt University, his marriage to Elizabeth Gewin, and his many professional engagements including those at the Hermitage Hotel, Belle Meade Country Club, and radio station WSM. The book culminates with the account of Craig’s late-in-career success with the sentimental hit “Near You.” After a legendary career, Francis Craig died of a heart attack outside Sewanee, Tennessee in 1966.

Intertwined throughout is the history of the National Life and Accident Insurance Company, started by Craig’s uncles, and how the company’s initial investment of $50,000 started the radio station WSM. Before WSM became a giant of country music and home of the Grand Ole Opry, Craig and his band were regular features during nightly broadcasts.

Researching Craig’s life was not an easy job. Dr. Ikard admits in his introduction that Francis Craig left few letters, articles, or diaries. Based on his notes, it appears that much of Dr. Ikard’s information came from interviews with Craig’s widow, as well as interviews and conversations with people from “the same social stratum, mostly Nashvillians.” Ikard admits that he saw “no value identifying those with contrary opinions, when said compulsiveness might result in misunderstanding.”

Dr. Ikard, a graduate of Vanderbilt University and a practicing surgeon in Nashville, is a devotee of a wide range of musical styles and a student of music history. In the book’s “Introduction,” “Prelude,” and “Introductory
Movement,” the author describes his passion and enthusiasm for music. Dr. Ikard has written many scientific and historical articles and is the author of *No More Social Lynchings*, a book about the 1946 race riot in his hometown of Columbia, Tennessee.

*Near You* comes with a CD featuring sixteen recordings of Francis Craig’s popular songs including “Near You,” “Red Rose,” and “Dynamite” (The Vanderbilt University Fight Song). Several of the recordings are from radio broadcasts and include short interviews with Craig. The author’s notes from interviews are extensive and interesting. Appendices include a discography and catalogue, and there is an index.

*Near You* is recommended for readers interested in Nashville’s rich musical heritage during the first half of the twentieth century, including the early beginnings of country music.

*Roger Myers  
Lamar Memorial Library  
Maryville College*


“Political history” in this title connotes elections. The author is particularly interested in the elections of Tennessee governors and Tennessee senators, but he also details some congressional and presidential contests. He gives special emphasis to politics in West Tennessee, with which he is most familiar. Phillip Langsdon, a plastic surgeon in Memphis, is a Republican; he was chair of the Republican Party in Shelby County from 1991 to 1995. He displays no particular Republican bias in the book, and although he devotes an unusual amount of space to Republicans William Brownlow and his brother, Walter, he is harshly critical of the governor.
The book is outmoded in a number of ways. Political history is not in vogue, and electoral history is a particularly narrow approach. The narrative is well-written, but reads like a textbook. The bibliography is mostly primary material. Marquis James’ biography of Sam Houston is not mentioned in the bibliography, although the title is used, and the author’s name is misspelled in the text. Some of the interpretation/analysis is also antiquated. The author praises Jackson for slaughtering Indians during the Creek War of 1813-1814. Statements referencing the Reconstruction period use the term “carpetbaggers” and “scalawags” with derogatory connotations.

One can find numerous instances of misleading statements. The author implies that Lincoln was listed on the ballot in Tennessee in the 1860 election, and he was not. Langsdon does not mention that the 1834 constitution deprived African-Americans of the vote when commenting on their political rights. The author was evidently misled by Hollywood in a couple of instances. Alvin York did not destroy “thirty-six machine guns.” Most likely, he knocked one out. The prosecution in the 1925 Scopes trial was not “led” by W. J. Bryan. The district attorney directed the prosecution; Bryan was a “witness.” Celina in Clay County generated a couple of misleading comments by the author. Cordell Hull was not so much associated with Celina as with Byrdstown and Carthage. Although Benton McMillan did establish a law practice in Celina, as the author notes, he was more closely connected to Carthage.

_Tennessee: A Political History_ is not a book to read for pleasure. Despite its mistakes (all books have mistakes) the book can be very useful as a reference/encyclopedia. Boxes set within the text, which give capsule biographies of Tennessee governors and senators, are useful sketches of these

*Southern Mountain Republicans* was first published in 1978 and has recently been reissued in paperback. It is the first nonfiction book in the "Appalachian Echoes" series of reprint editions published by the University of Tennessee Press. According to Durwood Dunn, Nonfiction Editor of the series and Professor of History at Tennessee Wesleyan College, the purpose of the series is to present works which are "long out of print" but which reveal the diversity of life and thought in Appalachia and thus "shaped the enduring image of the region in the American mind."

The author, Gordon McKinney, is Professor of Appalachian Studies and Director of The Appalachian Center at Berea College in Kentucky. McKinney begins this history of southern (Tennessee, West Virginia, and North Carolina) republicanism during the 1850s. The Republican Party had difficulty taking hold in the southern mountain region during this time. Citizens of the mountain region held hostility towards the dominant political party because of long-standing economic and political discrimination. Additionally, many people living in the mountain regions did not want to split up the Union, and they did not agree with Republican policy regarding slavery.

After the Civil War, the Republican Party was able to become useful to the people in the mountain region by developing a "program of government grants and protective tariffs" to help businesses in financially devastated areas. The party attempted over the years of Reconstruction to gain federal aid and adapt
to the needs, especially economic needs, of the local constituency while, at the same time, ignoring the unpopular racial policies of the national party. It is fascinating to see how Republican politicians constantly dealt with the issues of race, including African-American voters and African-Americans running for office. Republican politicians often struggled to preserve the right to vote for African-Americans and continued to convince white voters that it was a white man’s party. The history of the Republican Party cannot be separated from the effects of racism during this time of social and economic upheaval.

An important part of this study is the Appendix entitled "A Statistical Profile of the Mountain Republicans.” There are statistics which demonstrate the correlation, or lack thereof, between various factors, such as illiteracy, religion, and anti-secession voting, and patterns of Republican voting. These statistics demonstrate that factors which were thought to have a close correlation with Republican voting do not always show that correlation.

This volume is well researched with a lengthy list of notes for each chapter and an index. The author has included a new preface for this edition which details how he came to choose this topic for study. *Southern Mountain Republicans* is appropriate for, and would make a good addition to academic library collections.

*Jennifer Newcome, Librarian*
*Hardwick Johnston Memorial Library*
*Hiwassee College*


This title is a collection of twenty ghostly tales perfect for a chilly fall evening of reading. The twenty yarns included in the book range from a haunted cave on the Tipton-Haynes farm near Johnson City to a gun haunted
by its previous owner in Unicoi County. The tales range from 1673 to 1989. Among the characters encountered in the ghostly retellings are spinsters, Union soldiers, Native Americans, hunters, a phantom horseman and an ethereal man directing traffic.

Author Charles Edwin Price has captured the stories of haunted lands, houses and people of upper East Tennessee. Price's enthusiasm and love of the subject is apparent throughout the book. The material was obtained through oral histories, scraps of the same story from numerous people (no one knew the entire story) and "one story was taken from the yellowing pages of a nineteenth-century weekly newspaper." Although the stories were gleaned from numerous sources, the author successfully bound the stories together to make a small, yet cohesive volume on ghost stories of upper East Tennessee.

One of the most unique features of this book is the motif section. At the end of each story, the author lists the folktale motif which describes the tale’s plot. The motifs are taken from the Type and Motif Index of the Folktales of England and North America. This is a standard volume used to match folklore plots from one story to another. It is interesting to note how many of the stories contain similar motifs. The stories are generally a few pages long, and one can start reading with any story in the volume.

_Haints, Witches and Boogers_ is for those interested in folklore or ghostly tales. The volume would also be useful to folklorists, as the motif listings identify the plots of the tales and lead to complete sources of some of the folktales. This book is recommended for public and academic libraries.

_Karen Evans_
_Cunningham Memorial Library_
_Indiana State University_

This interesting little book arrived, appropriately, on Halloween. Who could resist tales of weeping mausoleums, vampires, a petrified man, and the Lover Lady Bumper Jumper of Dark Hollow Road? The book is at its best when the authors simply tell the tales. "Greasy Witches," provides intriguing details of frontier justice, "The Cussing Cover" is a paean to the art of quilting, and "Dakwa Ka-Plunk" works in a plug for the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga! The title story, "The Granny Curse," should come with a user's warning against reading in a quiet yet public space -- such as the reference desk or a doctor's waiting room. The tales are full of wonderful bits of description: "when he sang the hymns his voice had more holes in it than his shirt." There are also fascinating snippets of mountain lore: "a baby born during a thunderstorm was fated to be struck by lightning,"or "on the twenty-first of [August], it is said the trees place words upon the breeze...the trees whisper your future...."

The problem with *The Granny Curse*, however, is its lack of a clearly identifiable purpose. The authors seem unable to decide what type of book they are writing, resulting in a disconcerting switch of voice. Is it simply a book of "true" ghost stories and legends? Or is it history and customs as illuminated by folklore? The first four stories flow along smoothly. On the fifth, however, the reader stumbles into a history of chair-making, and the story itself is told in a more remote voice. With the next story, we are back into storytelling mode. Then suddenly we find ourselves in a three page treatise on the Melungeons. Although the treatise is interesting, the voice has changed drastically. So it goes throughout the rest of the book.
To add to the confusion of purpose, there are three omissions. First, there is no bibliography. Ordinarily this would be unnecessary in a book of ghost stories. However, there are references, scattered throughout many stories, to written records of these tales. In some cases, specific book titles are mentioned. Second, there are no maps of the general region or of specific sites. Since the stories are of real places, the reader might also expect photographs, which have not been included. The third lapse is the absence of any sort of index. However, the title indicates the stories are from East Tennessee, and each chapter heading provides the location in which the story was collected.

The stories related in The Granny Curse are amusing and interesting. Nevertheless, the confused sense of purpose and the lack of bibliography, maps and/or pictures, and index leave this reviewer unsatisfied.

Marea E. Rankin
Lupton Library
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga


*More Than Petticoats* is one of a series of similar biographical collections from individual states. It tells the stories of twelve women with connections to Tennessee, emphasizing the many contributions they made to history. All of the women were born before 1900, and all left a legacy of strength, determination and courage for those of us who came after them. The women included in this work are: Nancy Ward, Rachel Donelson Jackson, Sarah Childress Polk, Eliza McCordle Johnson, Elizabeth McGavock Harding, Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer, Ida B. Wells Barnett, Emma Bell Miles, Emma Rochelle Wheeler, Sue Shelton White, Bessie Smith, and Grace Moore.
Tennessee native and resident, Susan Sawyer, has put her expertise in writing historical novels to good use in telling these twelve real-life stories. She has managed to condense the whole life of each woman into an average of about ten pages, covering each life fully, while still making it very readable. The lengthy bibliography indicates an extensive amount of research into the lives of each woman. It is obvious that she has “explored their lives on an intimate level.” A comprehensive index is also included.

The emphasis of each relatively short biography is the part of the woman’s life that makes her truly “remarkable.” It is the graphic descriptions of those personal incidents and the feelings they invoke that bring these women to life for the reader. Since these women made history in their own way, the reader gets some insight into what was happening, often in the background, while the history of this country and state unfolded. These women would be great role models for all young women. This book would be a wonderful addition to any high school or public library, especially in Tennessee. There could also be a limited appeal for academic libraries with a Tennessee collection or for women’s history collections.

Sue Alexander
User Services Librarian
Middle Tennessee State University


What a girl ... what a story ... what a book! Rob Simbeck's biography of Cornelia Fort reads like a novel, but is a carefully researched account of the incredible life of a Nashville debutante, who fell in love with flying, earned her pilot’s license at the age of twenty-one, and was in the air over Honolulu giving a flying lesson when Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor on
December 7, 1941. Through the use of diaries and letters, Simbeck, who had the full support and cooperation of the Fort family in writing this book, lets Cornelia tell much of the story in her own words. He also includes numerous quotes from historical documents and his interviews with persons who knew her, including the man who taught her to fly, and members of the Women’s Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), with whom she flew.

The book traces Cornelia’s life growing up in a prominent Nashville family, attending exclusive Ward-Belmont School, through college at Ogontz School and Sarah Lawrence, and then “takes off” as she begins to fly. Much historical information about social conditions of the time, World War II, the military, and, particularly, the WAFS is woven into the story. When the WAFS was formed, and Cornelia was asked to join, she jumped at the chance to serve as one of the women pilots who “ferried” military aircraft from their place of manufacture to the bases where they would be put into service. She was the second woman pilot to report for duty. The WAFS opened the door to women pilots, who eventually flew during World War II as Women’s Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS).

Cornelia died in a flying accident while transporting a BT-13, becoming the first woman pilot to be killed while on active duty with the United States Army. She was twenty-four. In a letter to her mother before leaving Hawaii after Pearl Harbor, Cornelia wrote: “I dearly loved the airports, little and big. I loved the sky and the planes, and yet, best of all, I loved flying ... I was happiest in the sky--at dawn when the quietness of the air was like a caress, when the noon sun beat down, and at dusk when the sky was drenched with the fading light. Think of me there ...” And so we should.

The book is physically attractive, and the jacket is spectacular -- sky blue with wisps of clouds and a picture of Cornelia in flight suit leaning against her plane. Other black and white photographs within the text show Cornelia
during her growing-up years, with her family, and as an adult with other WAFS. A thorough “Sources and Bibliography” section is at the end, and there is a helpful index.

You won’t want to miss *Daughter of the Air*, selected for the Tennessee Library Association’s 1999 Tennessee History Book Award for excellence in Tennessee historical writing. Heartily recommended for public and academic libraries, especially in Tennessee and the Nashville area. Also appropriate for high school level. A “must” for collections on World War II, military aircraft, and women aviators.

*Linda Behrend*  
*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*


*World War II in Nashville: Transformation of the Homefront* by Robert G. Spinney recounts the political and social development of the city of Nashville during the war years. Spinney begins with the years immediately prior to the war and continues trends and developments into the 1950's.

Of particular interest is the author’s treatment of the impact of women in the workforce and the changing political and social structure of the city. He also details the racial problems in Nashville with some striking statistics concerning the condition of African-Americans in Nashville in the 1940's. Social and political developments in the Jewish community are also described. The result is a view of Nashville as a somewhat progressive Southern city with deep-seated underlying racial and ethnic problems. During the war years the racial problems were conveniently overlooked for the most part by white Nashvillians. However, Spinney recounts some harrowing lynching details, including the lynching of a seventeen-year-old African-American boy. While
the lynchings did not occur in Nashville, they were close enough to stir up controversy and anger in the city.

The author devotes a substantial part of the book to detailing the expansion of municipal government in Nashville during the 1940's. Civic leaders utilized political solutions to deal with a host of social problems brought on by World War II. This represented a new formalization and centralization of municipal power.

This book presents an in-depth look at the city of Nashville during the years immediately prior to and after World War II. The author creates a comprehensive image of Nashville by detailing the social and political impact of the war upon local government, politics, and economic development.

Vicki Sells-Lewallen
Instructional Technology Workshop
University of the South

Woodworth, Steven E.  

Chickamauga: A Battlefield Guide with a Section on Chattanooga.  


The battles described in this book represent the crisis of the Confederacy, the hinge of history that took place in the summer and fall of 1863. The Confederate Army of Tennessee won decisively at Chickamauga in northwest Georgia, a victory that gave them an opportunity to destroy the Union Army of the Cumberland, besieged in Chattanooga, and begin a resurgence of Southern hopes. The hinge swung the other way, however, with the relief of Chattanooga by U. S. Grant, and with the victories of his army in the dramatic battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, which opened the door to Georgia and the heartland of Dixie.

The purpose of this book is to help the reader situate the present-day battle sites as much as possible into their historical context, in which masses of men “in a maelstrom of shot and shell, smoke and noise” struggled for control of
ground, hills, ridges, fields, and roads, in their deadly efforts to hold off or sweep away the opposing side. As such, with terrain as the central character, the book is intended primarily to serve as a vade mecum that takes the locations in chronological order, directs the reader (by car) to them, and accompanies him there. Once in position, the author uses a concise mixture of narrative, analysis, and anecdote to stimulate the reader’s imagination to engage the past. At some stops a minimal amount of walking is involved.

The book succeeds admirably in its purpose. The author, Assistant Professor of History at Texas Christian University, who has published a study of the entire 1863 Tennessee campaign, presents clear and effectively written summaries of events, no mean feat in light of the confusion that reigned in these battles and that sometimes overwhelms other historical accounts. His use of "vignettes" to bring the battle down to individual scale is also appealing. This format necessarily has a limitation as a stand-alone work of military history: the directions to battlefield stops interrupt the flow of the narrative. Nonetheless, the reader who has no intention of taking the book to the battlefields can still benefit from the author’s skillful presentation. Students in particular will find it useful to have a concise, one-volume treatment of these proximate engagements, and Civil War buffs will also appreciate this title.

Additional features add to the book’s usefulness. There is a map for each stop that represents the historical action that took place. Each stop includes suggestions for further reading that direct the reader to the standard histories of the battles by such writers as Peter Cozzens, Wiley Sword, and James Lee McDonough. The book is illustrated with etchings reproduced from the classic Battles and Leaders of the Civil War (1887). Appendices include orders of battle; an explanation of organization, weapons and tactics; and a note on sources and bibliography. There is no index.
While not an essential purchase for most libraries, this attractive volume makes a good addition to any popular Civil War collection.

Jud Barry
Watauga Regional Library
Tennessee Library Association Board Of Directors, 2001-2002

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