Florida Historical Quarterly

Volume 43
Number 4 *Florida Historical Quarterly, Vol 43, Number 4*

Article 11

1964

Book Reviews

Florida Historical Society
membership@myfloridahistory.org

Federal Conservation Policy: 1921-1933. By Donald C. Swain. (Berkeley: University of California Press, *University of California Publications in History,* Vol. 76, 1963. x, 221 pp. Bibliography, notes, index. $4.00.)

Although the word "Florida" does not appear in the index of this volume on Federal conservation policy from 1921 to 1933, this publication will prove very interesting to Floridians with any bent toward the conservation of the resource categories of this state dealing with water, timber, soil, wildlife, minerals, and natural beauty.

Organized conservation movements in the United States are largely products of this century, yet, as early as the seventeenth century, colonial officials sought to protect important raw materials. Efforts to protect natural resources failed. Encircled by nature's abundance, early Americans exploited land, timber, and wildlife without regard for the future. The idea of conserving resources was foreign to the American tradition. However, beginning in the 1870s, groups of citizens began working to save wildlife and some westerners saw the need of conserving water for irrigation. The concept that natural resources should be developed purposefully became the basis for modern conservation philosophy.

The first national conservation program was initiated in the early 1900s, and federal and state agencies cooperated in the establishment of a few reserves and national parks. In 1891, President Benjamin Harrison withdrew 13,000,000 acres of timberland from the public domain and created the first forest reserves. By 1905, Gifford Pinchot, the energetic and colorful leader appointed by Theodore Roosevelt, had renamed the reserved areas national forests. By 1933, the holdings had increased to 223,000,000 acres, Florida was the first of the eastern states in which a national forest was created, the Ocala in 1908. The Osceola National Forest near Macclenny was established in 1931, and Apalachicola National Forest in Liberty and Wakulla counties in 1936. These three forests have a combined area of 1,100,000 acres. Following the national lead, Florida has created four state forests: Blackwater River at Milton, Withlacoochee near Brooksville, Pine Log near Panama City, and Austin Cary outside Gainesville,

Wildlife conservation received its first official national recog-

nition when Congress created the office of Commissioner of Fish and Fisheries in 1871, who encouraged wildlife propagation, regulation, and investigation. Pelican Island on the Indian River was established by President Roosevelt in 1903, as the first national bird sanctuary in the country. Since then other national and state sanctuaries have been created in Florida. Many of the state's lakes and rivers are restocked with fingerlings from the national fish hatchery at Welaka, and the legislature created the Florida Board of Conservation and the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

The character of federal reclamation has changed rapidly from single attacks in numerous areas to a multi-purpose approach in the over-all development of resources. Thus, with the creation of the Central and Southern Florida Flood Control District in the Kissimmee-Okeechobee-Everglades watersheds, drainage, flood control, fish and wildlife conservation, recreation, fire control, and natural beauty are all ultimate objects in this great national-state-local governmental operation. The establishment of Everglades National Park in 1947 was a landmark in the federal system for the conservation of flora and fauna.

Swain concludes that the years 1921-1933 were productive in the conservation of natural resources through nation-wide forest fire protection, soil conservation, multi-purpose river basin development, flood control for the Mississippi and other rivers, development of an integrated system of inland waterways, planning for the generation of hydro-electric power, and establishment of numerous migratory bird sanctuaries and 12,500,000 additional acres of national parks and monuments. In 1963, Floridians followed the national lead by voting a $50,000,000 bond issue for the purpose of acquiring erstwhile public lands for recreational and other natural resource development in our rapidly urbanizing state.

J. E. DOVELL

University of Florida

The Uncertain South: Its Changing Patterns of Politics in Foreign Policy. By Charles O. Lerche, Jr. (Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1964. 324 pp. Maps, appendix, index. $6.95.)

The time may yet come-indeed it may be close upon us-when an enterprising scholar will have the temerity to advance

the thesis that the South, far from being the most monolithic region of the United States, is actually the most diverse and pluralistic. Largely because the South has a separate nationalistic myth of its own, as well as a share in the general American myth, it is the one section which displays some tendencies to resist change for the sake of change, to entertain doubts about the inevitability of progress, and to react to emerging social and political phenomena with something of the uncertainty and capriciousness of the individual divided against himself rather than in conditioned response to the expectations of the well-integrated collectivity. Before such a thesis could find general acceptance, however, the rest of the country would have to be educated about the South. And, in the face of the combination of basic ignorance about the region and widespread resistance to interpretations that might disturb the South's long-standing position as a national scapegoat, this seems impossible. What is more, by the time such knowledge could be disseminated it seems likely that the South will already be made over in the image of the country as a whole.

If read with care, Professor's Lerche's examination of southern attitudes to foreign affairs can contribute to general knowledge of the region, help erode the monolithic cliche, and contribute to an understanding of the causes and effects both of change and resistance to change in the South. The central question to which Lerche seeks an answer is why the South, within a decade, should have shifted from a position which provided the most solid support for American international-mindedness to one which produced the greatest regional resistance to American foreign commitments.

In order to attack the problem systematically, Lerche analyzes the congressional votes cast on foreign affairs by the members of the United States House of Representatives from fourteen southern and border states during the period from 1953 to 1962. These votes are broken into two broad categories, the first being the annual votes on authorizations of foreign aid and the second a selected list of fourteen issues of international import designed to elucidate the distinctions between what Lerche refers to as unilateralist and multilateralist positions. Using simple tabular devices, Lerche compares and contrasts the votes in the two categories on an overall, as well as on a state by state basis in order

to establish a pattern of attitudes among the congressmen. Although the range from unilateralist to multilateralist originally extends through six categories, Lerche reduces these to four effective divisions: ideological unilateralists, waverers, pragmatists, and multilateralists.

The author then seeks to establish the sociological basis on which these categories rest by analyzing the 126 constituencies in the fourteen states in terms of socio-economic factors which provide measures of social change. The principal analytic factors used are growth rate of population, percentage of urbanization, value added by manufacture, and per capita income, although other data, such as proportions of Negroes in the population, are intermittently introduced. Thus, the author is able to relate change in the specific area of foreign policy attitudes to social change in general. Briefly summarized, Lerche's major conclusion is that unilateralism derives principally from protest, and has made its appearance mainly in those districts which are in transition in terms of the general social categories, and which are, therefore, in a state of ferment and uncertainty both about the past and the future. By contrast, multilateralism remains pronounced in those districts which are so static that they allow the representative virtually a free mandate in the foreign field, *and* in those districts which have already substantially made the transition from the old rural (internationalist) South to the new urban (internationalist) pattern which corresponds to the general political situation in the country at large.

Lerche's analysis is accompanied and enriched by a running commentary on southern mores and patterns of thought. His observations about the original bases of southern internationalism, his comments on the changing South in general, and his perceptive treatment of the tension between romantic myth and pessimism in the region provide a basis of understanding that statistics can reflect but never produce independently.

In fact, like the South, Professor Lerche displays certain ambivalences. At times he self-consciously attempts to come to terms with the new social "science" by adopting a pseudo-scientific jargon. But his self-correction, as well as most of his descriptive writing, is amply compensatory. It is refreshing, for example, when he reminds us that, "Politics is more an art than a science, calls much more insistently and more often for evalua-

tion than for measurement . . .”; and it is keeping with the essence of the book for him to note that, “If the roots of protest are ultimately psychic, all the rich variety of which human emotions are capable finds expression in the political life of the contemporary South and too rigid a formula is an invitation to analytical errors of awesome magnitude.”

I suspect that the behavorists will not much appreciate Lerche’s attempts to respond to them on their terms from the peculiarly defensive position into which they seem to have maneuvered us all, because his statistical tables are too simple and “unsophisticated” and he indulges too often in “value judgments.” It is my judgment (value-impregnated, to be sure) that his statistics carry as much weight as is required of them to demonstrate his case and that his appraisals of the southern ethos are, with occasional exceptions, based on sound critical observation. On the whole, I am old-fashioned enough to prefer acuteness of imagination in identifying problems and accuracy of conclusions to deftness of manipulation.

WILLIAM C. HAVARD

University of Massachusetts

Cuba, the Economic and Social Revolution, Edited by Dudley Seers. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1964. xx, 432 pp. Tables, bibliographical notes, appendices, index. $7.50.)

This is the first serious study of economic and social developments in Cuba since the Revolution. The authors, a group of English and Chilean economists, place the Revolution in its historical context, assess the changes that have occurred since the Castro government came to power in 1959, and attempt to foresee what lies in store for the island nation in the critical years ahead. Dudley Seers is the general editor of the study as well as the author of the introductory section on the economic and social background of the Revolution. Andres Bianchi, Richard Jolly, and Max Nolff contribute the sections on agriculture, education, and industry into which the remainder of the book is divided.

The formal research upon which the inquiry is based was supplemented by investigations in Cuba itself in 1962, includ-

ing visits to ministries, schools, state farms, and factories. For this reason, much of the information gathered together in this book, especially the statistical tables, is simply unavailable elsewhere. At the same time, the authors are quick to point out the incompleteness and unreliability of their data. The conclusions are inevitably tentative in many places and should be so judged by the reader. Because information is incomplete and because a revolutionary situation precludes a strictly economic analysis, the margin for personal judgment is considerable. The problems of social and economic backwardness which the Cuban government is attempting to solve are common, in varying degrees, to the whole of Latin America. These problems may be grouped under three main headings: unemployment, poverty, and ignorance. The Alliance for Progress represents one approach to their solution; the program of the Cuban government is another.

The authors' purpose is to compare, with justice, the post-revolutionary situation in Cuba with that before 1959. The book considers the problems inherited by the Castro government and how they differed from the problems encountered by other twentieth-century revolutions. Comparisons are made with the problems of economic and social backwardness that are being faced by other nations of Latin America-as they are by nations in Africa and Asia as well. Revolutionary land reform and other agricultural policies; new programs for schools and universities, the great effort in adult education, and the political content of instruction; organization for rapid industrialization and the shortage of skilled labor-all come under searching examination in this critical, factual, and skillfully presented account of the Cuban Revolution, which deserves the serious attention of historians, social scientists, and the informed public.

FREDERICK E. KIDDER

University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

Early American Hurricanes, 1492-1870. By David L. Ludlum. (Boston: American Meteorological Society, 1963. xii, 198 pp. Foreword, maps, bibliography, chronological and geographical index. $7.00, paperback, $1.50.)

This clear, well-planned, and carefully authenticated book cannot fail to interest, if not set a-quiver the nerves of everyone

who has ever lived through a wildly roaring hurricane night, to stare out in a gray, wet dawning at a world sodden with rain.

It is an excellent thing that the hurricane research work of the United States Weather Bureau can now be supplemented, thanks to the American Meteorological Society, with the first authoritative chronology of our North American and Caribbean hurricanes. Such a study has long been lacking. It has obviously not been so important as the scientific and intensive study of these vast tropical cyclones, which has all developed in so short a space of time. No one better could have been found to unite it than Dr. David M. Ludlum, editor of the useful magazine *Weatherwise* and author of *Weatherwatch.*

The problem has been two-fold. First, to be sure that the often very incomplete records of storms show them to have been true hurricanes, and then, not to become so engrossed in scientific description that the resulting work is difficult or unreadable for the general public.

The classic scientific books have been Ivan Ray Tannehill's *Hurricanes* (1938), a miracle of scientific condensation, and the longer and much more up-to-date *Atlantic Hurricanes* (1964) by Gordon E. Dunn, head of the National Hurricane Research Center of Miami, and Banner J. Miller. Tannehill published the first chronological list of hurricanes since Columbus, based on the first and often inadequate attempt at a list by Andres Poey. Few books have attempted to study the human side of hurricanes, except Sidney Perley's *Historic Storms of New England,* or the human plus the historical backgrounds and effects of hurricanes which was the purpose in my own book, *Hurricane* in 1958.

The study of hurricanes since the time of William Redfield, the Connecticut saddler who first described a hurricane as a circular storm, was made possible through written accounts-newspaper and magazine articles, letters, diaries, and ships' logs. Dr. Ludlum wisely leaves scientific details to scientific studies. He has selected delightful quotations from many of these old records. These add color and emotion, which is of course inherent in the really shaking experience of a great hurricane, to the necessary bare facts of wind velocity, barometer readings, tidal and wave readings, along with a record, wherever possible, of hurricane damage.

Dr. Ludlum begins with a description of the few hurricanes of Columbus' time, which Columbus was the first to study. Little source has been discovered to add to what we knew already about these earliest days, although a careful study of Mayan and Mexican documents might increase our practically nonexistent knowledge of pre-Columbian hurricanes. As Dr. Ludlum continues his story, he adds more and more vivid and exciting material from hitherto little known sources. All this is of the greatest possible interest to de historian, particularly to those of Florida.

He divides his material according to both time and space- Hatteras North, Hatteras South, and the Gulf coast - in groups of centuries. One of his vivid touches is to chronicle his hurricanes according to their contemporary names: "The Great Colonial Hurricane 1635," "Strange News from Virginia; the Dreadful Hurry Cane of 1667," "The Spanish Repulse of 1686," "A Great Ram and Horrible Wind of 1872," "The Ordering of Providence, 1778, " "Bernard Roman's Gulf Coast Hurricane of 1772," and the important and well described, "The Great Hurricane of October, 1780."

There is a bibliography of Ludlum's sources to 1870, and a geographical index by states from 1528, which is one of the most valuable aids in the book. A more general index would be very helpful, too.

The excellent first volume is to be continued, we hope, as hurricanes continue to worry our coasts. No attempt, and probably wisely, could be made to evaluate the effects of human lives and history of contemporary hurricanes. This will still be an endless, although endlessly fascinating field for research.

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS

Coconut Grove, Florida

Jose del Valle of Central America. By Louis E. Bumgartner. (Durham: Duke University Press, 1963. viii, 302 pp. Preface, frontispiece, bibliography, index. $8.75.)

The book provides a historical biography of a prominent Central American lawyer-landholder whose politically oriented career unravelled during the period when the Spanish American independence movement emerged out of the turmoil of Napoleonic

Europe. Born in 1776, dying in 1834, this educated Creole aristocrat successfully navigated the historical stream of events that carried the Central American Isthmus from colonial status, as the Spanish Kingdom of Guatemala, to independence, as the United Provinces of Central America. The developments that slowly lifted the Spanish colony out of the loosening folds of the late eighteenth century and catapaulted it abruptly into the uncertainty and compulsive action of the early nineteenth century are well illustrated through the personal experiences of a man acutely aware of and deeply immersed in the events of the time-events that appear notably different once they are plucked from the general sweep of history in the grand manner and reduced to the concrete, mundane round of petty pursuits and everyday existence. Valle threads the delicate course of a transition era well and affords continuity by his unusual ability to emerge as one of the most prominent figures in the first decade of independence, despite his close association with and sympathy for the ousted royal regime. Because of his involvement in the mainstream of onrushing events, we are presented with significant insight into the political structure and forces shaping the emerging Central American states.

The study exhibits very extensive and conscientious research. It is heavily documented, primarily, although not exclusively, from manuscripts deposited in the Archivo General of Guatemala and from Valle's private papers. As often occurs with studies of this nature, however, the sources tend to determine the content, limiting the researcher to those matters of which the subject has left a record-matters not necessarily dealing with the problems about which the historian is primarily concerned. Being a political biography, the book tends to provide neither a full portrait of the man nor a complete analysis of the political complexities. The inclusion in the text of a multitude of names seems designed more for identifying sources than for clarifying the narrative, and additional information found in the footnotes is sometimes quoted in Spanish and other times translated into English with no apparent reason for the inconsistency. Generally, however, the author is to be commended for a well written work that affords sound, scholarly treatment of a crucial turning point in Central American history.

ROBERT A. NAYLOR

University of Pittsburgh

Bolton and the Spanish Borderlands. Edited by John Francis Bannon. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964. xi, 346 pp. Bibliography, map, index. $5.95.)

This is a work of love by one of Bolton's best known students. It is amazing how well Bolton works down into the compass of one book such as this one. This is not to demean in any way his importance as a historian which is self-evident; rather it is a tribute to the homogeneity and the compactness of his historical skills and interests, as well as to Bannon's editorship.

The introduction is brief and talks of Bolton the scholar and teacher. The selections from his works are well done, succintly introduced, and logically integrated into the following sections: an overview of the Spanish Borderlands and the need to explore them, as this need existed in the early part of the century; approaches to the Borderlands, illustrating Bolton's competence in geographical detail and synthesis as part of the historical method; the theory of the defensive character of the Borderlands, a thesis which Bolton made particularly his own; and selections displaying his work on the Southwest, with emphasis on the work of the great Spanish missionaries.

Bolton's famous presidential address to the American Historical Association at its 1932 convention is included in the section entitled "The 'Other' Bolton." While the editor insists that the "more enduring" Bolton is to be found in the man who ransacked Mexican and European archives, uncovered important documentary material, respected the detail and color of history, and then dispensed these generous enthusiasms to his students, this reviewer believes that the Bolton thesis enunciated in that address was more enthusiastic than useful. Nevertheless, its inclusion here completes the documentation of one of our best American historians. At the end of the book there is a bibliography of Bolton's works.

BURR BRUNDAGE

Florida Presbyterian College