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Book Reviews

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BOOK REVIEWS

The Governorship of Spanish Florida: 1700-1763. By John Jay TePaske. (Durham: Duke University Press, 1964. viii, 248 pp. Preface, appendix, bibliography, index. \$7.50.)

Eighteenth-century Florida was an impoverished and unloved outpost of the Spanish Empire. "Despite its strategic importance, no name was more repugnant in Cuba or New Spain than *La Florida*," writes Professor TePaske in summing up its institutional history over sixty years. It was poor in resources and harbors; its Spanish population was at best a few hundred people-officials, soldiers, priests, and apparently very few settlers. In its weakness it was an easy prey for attacks by unfriendly Indians and by white invaders from the vigorous, expansionist British colonies of South Carolina and Georgia. It was also a victim of the clash of rival empires in the New World. In 1702 St. Augustine was sacked by Governor Moore's expedition from South Carolina. Though Fort San Marcos stood firm, Moore laid waste more than a score of villages in the Apalache region and massacred many Indians. The Spanish counter-offensive against Charleston in 1706 was a failure. In the War of Jenkins' Ear this story was repeated: Oglethorpe laid siege to St. Augustine in 1740, but retired after a spirited sally had caught his men unprepared at Mosa and relief ships had arrived from Cuba; the Spanish offensive against Georgia was turned back at the skirmish at Bloody Marsh near Frederica, in 1742. In the end, after a war in which the Florida-Georgia border remained at peace, Florida was surrendered to Great Britain without a blow, part of a distant diplomatic settlement.

Professor TePaske has told his story well, and has documented it heavily from the Spanish sources. He admits the disadvantage of the topical organization he has adopted - and, indeed, he might have been wiser to have written a narrative history of these years, as he does (in effect) for the province's military history in his two chapters on defense. He succeeds, certainly, in his main object: to show the governor's powers in administration, justice, economic affairs, ecclesiastical matters, and Indian policy. The devices peculiar to the Spanish Empire by which governors were held to account, the *visita* (visitation), the *pesquisa* (secret investigation), and the *residencia* (judicial review), are clearly described and

illustrated. Like the British province which succeeded it, Spanish Florida was dependent for its governmental expenses - and even, it seems, for bare subsistence-on an official subsidy, the *situado*; though, unlike the British subsidy, it was seldom received in full, even when the responsibility for it was given to the Bishop of Puebla in Mexico (surely a curious arrangement). The governor appears to have had much more military authority than his British successor, but he lacked, except for the occasional junta, the advice of a council. Civil officials were much more numerous in the British administration. The long delays, sometimes years, between a governor's promotion and his actual departure are another surprise to the student of British colonial government.

There would seem to be two weaknesses in TePaske's method of presentation. It is hard to judge the capacity and achievements of individual governors; for example, one gains the impression that Governor Moral, hastily recalled in 1737, was guilty only of excessive zeal in strengthening the colony's defenses and obtaining supplies (even from Charleston). And though the supervision exercised by the Council of the Indies in Spain is frequently illustrated, the relations between the government in Florida and the governor in Cuba and the viceroy in Mexico remain rather shadowy. A minor point is an occasional misuse of words, but none of these things seriously detract from the careful pioneering work by which Professor TePaske has enriched the history both of Florida and of the Spanish Empire.

CHARLES L. MOWAT

University College of North Wales, Bangor

Florida Trails to Turnpikes: 1914-1964. By Baynard Kendrick. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1964. xv, 297 pp. Illustrations, supplement, sources, index, glossary. \$8.00.)

Baynard Kendrick, noted Florida author, has written this definitive history of the State Road Department. His fact-filled tome, 297 pages of pictures and text, begins in 1915 when the State Road Department was created by the Florida legislature, and it ends in 1964. It reviews road building in all the gubernatorial administrations from Governor Park Trammel to Governor Haydon

Burns. Mr. Kendrick points out that the total funds available for the State Road Department during its first fiscal year (October 1, 1915, through September 30, 1916) was only \$16,410.54, while its total budget for the fiscal year 1963-64 was \$433,000,000. This fascinating fifty-year history of the State Road Department shows that the growth of Florida parallels the growth of road building-perhaps the prime cause of Florida's progress since 1915.

John W. Martin was elected governor in 1924 on a promise to "take Florida out of the mud," and he did. His administration pioneered construction of hard-surfaced roads on a massive scale in Florida. It may be immodest - yet, truthful - for this reviewer, to acknowledge that Baynard Kendrick's *Trails to Turnpikes* shows that Florida's most phenomenal progress, road-wise and bridge-wise, was achieved by the administration (1949-53) that gave this state "fifty years of progress in four." Started during this era were (1) Florida's first secondary road program, primarily benefiting rural areas, (2) the Sunshine Skyway, (3) the Florida Turnpike, (4) the Jacksonville Expressway, and other lesser monuments of progress.

Baynard Kendrick and his collaborators have rendered an enduring service to Florida by preparing and publishing *Florida Trails to Turnpikes*.

FULLER WARREN

Miami, Florida

The Judicial Sayings of Justice Glenn Terrell. Compiled by M. Lewis Hall. (Atlanta: The Harrison Company, 1964. x, 171 pp. Illustration, prologue, tribute by fellow justices, illustrative excerpts from opinions, index. \$8.00.)

The late Justice Glenn Terrell graced the bench of the Supreme Court of Florida for nearly forty-one years. It is estimated that during his tenure he authored more than 2,500 opinions. Mr. Hall has compiled a collection of enjoyable excerpts from 100 carefully selected "Terrellisms." The judge would probably describe the compilation as a "kernel" or "nubbin" of his more extensive total product.

In the Terrell style there was a suggestion of the imaginative creativeness of the fiction writer injected into the solution of a limited problem, necessarily circumscribed by the applicable law and the facts of a particular case. It appealed to the lay reader primarily because of a masterful employment of the simile and metaphor. To Judge Terrell the elderly man was not old, he was one "who had turned the yellow leaf of life"; the good lawyer was one "who had decorated the profession like an ornament on a Christmas tree." The illustrative excerpts in the forepart of Mr. Hall's book are delectable little hors d'oeuvres that whet the reader's appetite for a full course meal.

The concluding index of subjects, comprehended by the quoted cases, suggests that the book has some value as a legal research facility. This aspect is present but it is not a major contribution of the work.

The cases were obviously chosen because of their special human interest appeal. For this reason the book will be an interesting addition to libraries of laymen and lawyers alike. There is no theme or continuity. One can open the book casually to any page and find a little gem of wisdom, humor, or just plain common sense. This is no technical thesis on some obscure or lifeless legalistic concept. It is a collection of lively judicial comments on situations which might well involve the reader or his family or his next-door neighbor.

The Terrell opinion was rather Lincolnesque in its expressiveness, characterized by its homey, down-to-earth descriptive diction. For evidence, refer to the prologue, written by the judge himself. His description of an "oldtimer" is alone worth the price of the book.

By some sort of selective process which the judge might describe as "blowing the froth off the evidence," Lew Hall has exposed in this little book a rich body of the law, adorned by the decorative language of an expert in the craftsmanship of fashioning judicial opinions.

Shortly after I came to the court, I called at Judge Terrell's office to discuss a pending case. I apologized for interrupting his reading. His response was typical. "Don't apologize," he said, "Come in and sit down. I learned a long time ago that when your wife or another judge comes calling, you lay down whatever

you're doing and start listening." To paraphrase, whenever this little book comes across your desk, prepare to lay down whatever you are doing and start reading. You will enjoy it immensely.

CAMPBELL THORNAL

Tallahassee, Florida

The History of Tarpon Springs. By R. F. Pent. (St. Petersburg: Great Outdoors Publishing Co., 1964. 111 pp. Illustrations. \$1.00.)

In a slim volume R. F. Pent has written a history of Tarpon Springs and the Anclote River settlements which cannot fail to awaken nostalgic memories in the hearts of "old timers" and their descendants. For those not fortunate enough to rate as such, he portrays vividly and truthfully the story of that coast of West Florida "as it was in the beginning."

There is no one better fitted than Mr. Pent to undertake the task. Born in 1878 on the north bank of the Anclote River, he saw his birthplace - Anclote - grow from two families (his was the second) to a miniature hub of civilization, boasting a store, a post-office, and a community hall which served as church, school, and for all public purposes. When he was seven his family moved to Spring Bayou at the head of the river. The scars of the Civil War were healing and financial interests had their eyes on the South. In 1882 the agent for the mighty Disston empire had plotted a town. From the lovely waters of the bayou, where tarpon rolled and played, back into the wilderness the streets marched, marked only by surveyor's posts, while the denizens of the forest, from alligator to panther and wolf went on their age-old way, unmolested save for an occasional hunter who killed for his larder. But, for the animals, time was running out. In 1887, with only fifty-two residents, the new city was incorporated and named Tarpon Springs.

Mr. Pent shares with us the growing pains and joys of the new city. We swim, we hunt, and we race sailing boats up and down the Gulf - sometimes dangerously, occasionally tragically, but always exuberantly. Then the seamen came from Key West, from the Bahamas, from the British West Indies, and life took on a faster tempo.

A sawmill was built and the first trees were felled to make homes for the newcomers and the inevitable businesses that followed. Unpaved streets were opened and foreign tongues were heard on the boardwalks. For these men were spongers and had discovered the incredibly rich banks which stretched from the Anclote to Cedar Key. We sail with them in their strange boats and peer through their glass-bottomed buckets at the incredible, multi-colored gardens on the Gulf floor as they hook the living sponges with their forty and fifty-foot poles. Later, to harvest the finest sponge of all, growing too deep for the hook and glass bucket man, skilled divers come from the far off Dodecanese Islands of Greece, and with them Tarpon Springs becomes the largest sponge exchange in the world.

In the city itself, we see people from the North settle down with people whom they fought but a few years before, and different faiths live side by side, respected and admired. We see people of foreign birth painlessly assimilated into a harmonious whole sharing their joys, their sorrows, their skills, and their rich cultures.

MARY MCRAE

Homosassa, Florida

They Lived in the Park. By Charlton W. Tebeau. (Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1963. xiii, 142 pp. Illustrations, foreword. \$2.50, paperback \$1.50.)

It is impossible to visit the Everglades National Park without being conscious of human history. The park was set aside for its natural values, and those are the ones which impress themselves upon the visitor most immediately and markedly. But, for at least two thousand years, man has been a part of the scene as well. He has made his influence felt upon the environment, and in turn, sometimes subtly and sometimes not so subtly, it has had its effect on him. In this book, Dr. Tebeau has undertaken to unfold this story for all to read.

It was not an easy book to write. Most popular works of history are strictly secondary distillations of more exhaustive books and studies, with a minimum use of primary sources. In this instance,

if the author had followed this approach he would have ended with a very thin manuscript indeed. He chose instead to pick and delve, to correspond and interview, to gather the little details which give the work its intimacy and charm, as well as its value.

After setting the stage with a description of the varied environments within the park boundaries, Dr. Tebeau moves on to a chapter in which the Indian occupation of the area, both pre-historic and historic, is simply and accurately told. The following chapter deals with the sporadic contacts of colonial times, the penetration of the area during the Second and Third Seminole Wars, and the increasing knowledge of the later part of the nineteenth century. Four chapters are then devoted to the local history of four geographic sections within the present park. Here is where we meet the early settlers in their everyday pursuits of fishing, hunting, farming, or cutting buttonwood. Here they are too, poaching egret plumes, running off some Cape Sable Augerent, or engaging in a little bit of smuggling. Here is the legendary badman Ed Watson meeting his end at the hands of more law-abiding citizens, and the martyred Guy Bradley giving his life for the conservation movement. A final chapter traces the history of Everglades National Park from the earliest suggestions that here was something worth saving to the realization of the dream.

Because of his liberal use of unrecorded information, Dr. Tebeau has done more than write a readable popular history. He has, by recounting these facts and memories, actually recorded history. Through his book, he has made available another dimension - the human dimension - of the story of Everglades National Park.

JOHN W. GRIFFIN

Richmond, Virginia

The Everglades: Florida Wonderland. By Thomas Helm. (New York: Dodd Mead & Co., 1963. 63 pp. Illustrations, index. \$3.00.)

Land of Beauty and Enchantment: Stories and Photographs of the Florida Everglades. By William C. Emerson. (New York: Exposition Press, 1963. 143 pp. Illustrations. \$5.00.)

Publications on the Florida Everglades and the closely related Seminole Indians are always welcome, but neither of these books, both by Floridians, add anything really new to the story of the region. Their value is in the photographs they include. Thomas Helm's work is largely a vehicle for the publication of almost three dozen beautifully reproduced photographs of Everglades scenes, principally of wild life and nature. A color photo of an Everglades scene by Dade Thornton on the dust jacket adds to the beauty of the publication. The text is too brief to evaluate except as a setting for the illustrations.

Dr. Emerson, a physician born in Kansas, grew up in Florida and retains a deep sentimental interest in its history and people. The subtitle of his book is less descriptive than is usual, for the subject matter includes far more than the Everglades. There are, for example, chapters on Naples, Florida, Roy Ozmer the hermit, and the shrimp fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico. It is something of a travelogue with some seventy photographs by the author which are neither as good nor as well reproduced as those in the Helm volume. Dr. Emerson makes no pretense of originality or critical scholarship in the narrative and it should be judged on that basis. He makes South Carolina the original home of the Seminoles, and most anthropologists would disagree that the Calusa Indians came to Florida from South America. Nor were the Everglades' lands all deeded to Florida in 1903; they were granted to the state under the Swamp and Overflowed Lands Act of 1850, though patents for some tracts were not made until the twentieth century. The narrative is, of course, too brief to expect a full treatment of the subjects introduced.

CHARLTON W. TEBEAU

University of Miami

Mary McLeod Bethune: A Biography. By Rackham Holt. (New York: Doubleday & Company, 1964. 306 pp. Illustrations, biographical data, index. \$4.95.)

This biography of an outstanding Negro woman should be of interest to Florida history buffs. When Mary McLeod Bethune, age twenty-nine, stepped off a train in Daytona Beach in 1904,

she was stubbornly committed to one purpose, that of founding a school for Negro girls. But the long-range goal of this indomitable, dedicated woman was to lead and to prod the members of her race on an ever upward course. In doing this, she would run ahead and open the doors for them whenever she could.

Mrs. Bethune's school began in a rented house in a Negro ghetto. There were five students who paid a small tuition in cash or kind. From the beginning, the school was subsidized through the ingenuity of its founder who was adept at putting the touch on every white visitor who settled down to rock on a hotel veranda at the nearby resorts. Nor were the extracted contributions grudgingly given. Mrs. Bethune's zeal, the emotional quality of her resonant voice, her proud insistence on her use of the front door and of the title of "Mrs.," won her both respect and support. One winter visitor in particular, Thomas H. White of sewing machine fame, took a continuing interest in the school, helped to expand its buildings, and willed a sum of \$79,000 to the institution. The John D. Rockefellers, senior and junior, and James M. Gamble of Procter and Gamble, were also among the school's illustrious benefactors.

Through the years the school evolved into a four-year co-educational, liberal arts college and established an enviable reputation among the institutions of higher learning in Florida. In 1954, after fifty years, Bethune-Cookman College had a campus of thirty-six acres, nineteen buildings, and a student body of 1,300.

The most interesting part of this book tells of Mrs. Bethune's early struggles to get the school on its feet. We see her riding about Daytona Beach on a second hand bicycle trying to find enough money for the week's groceries. She took her "children" to sing at the winter hotels and passed the hat with a sharp eye. At the Rockefeller estate, "The Casements," her students sang the oil magnate's favorites, "Comin' Through the Rye" and "Rock of Ages," and Mrs. Bethune, with an unerring blandishment in dealing with white people, called John D. Rockefeller "her Rock of Ages." Once when a cake arrived from "The Casements" for one of her many ice cream socials, she auctioned it off for \$300.

By the 1930s Mrs. Bethune had become a national figure. She was invited to the White House by President and Mrs. Roosevelt, and she helped administer the Office of Minority Affairs

under the National Youth Administration. She founded the National Council of Negro Women, and served over the years on countless humanitarian committees. Her skill and fervor in conducting a money drive, when the cause appealed to her, never diminished, and in her late seventies she helped launch a new project for raising an endowment for her beloved college. "God will shake money out of the trees," was her oft-repeated statement.

Mrs. Bethune was a good speaker, an inspired and inspiring woman, when she kept to the path she had chosen for herself. Admittedly this path was somewhat narrow. Mrs. Bethune was in no sense a professional educator and was certainly not an intellectual. She developed a taste for Paris clothes but had little knowledge of the art, music, or the literature of contemporary society.

Mrs. Holt, author of this biography and that of another famous Negro, George Washington Carver, was a friend and an admirer of Mrs. Bethune. While her research is thorough and her writing skill is adequate, it is not impeccable. In the latter part of the book the human side of Mrs. Bethune gets smothered under a recital of all the various honors and offices which came to her. While her achievements were impressive and certainly worthy of record we rather wish the author had not gone into such detail. The author's style, like her subject's personality, is sincere, serious, and totally lacking in humor.

THELMA PETERS

Miami-Dade Junior College

We Remember John: A Biography of John W. Branscomb, First Bishop elected from Florida Methodism. By Richard E. Blanchard. (Lakeland: Florida Conference of the Methodist Church, 1964. vii, 104 pp. Illustrations, introduction, acknowledgments. \$2.00.)

This interesting biography provides the reader with an adequate treatment of the facts that portray the life story of Bishop John W. Branscomb. Although it is much more than a mere chronological recital of events or a catalog of significant achievements, these essential elements of any meritorious biography are

developed in sufficient detail. As the title suggests, the biographical materials are vitalized by the orderly presentation of many statements by friends who have expressed their appreciation of Dr. Branscomb. These deal with day-to-day incidents and experiences which reflect the breadth of interest in people, the warmth of concern for those in need, the depth and the simplicity of religious conviction that characterized this great Christian minister. One might be inclined to suppose that a recital of remembrances by one's friends would tend to be overly sentimental. However, this is not the case. Dr. Blanchard has presented words of appreciation carefully gleaned from statements that have been made by close friends and acquaintances through the years.

Although this reviewer was fairly well acquainted with Bishop Branscomb, he has the feeling that if he had not known him, this book would provide a remarkable basis for acquaintance and appreciation. This is by way of saying that the writer's appraisal of Dr. Branscomb has been confirmed by the testimony of those who knew him best.

There is no doubt that this minister of the gospel made a lasting contribution to the people of Florida and to the great religious body that he served with distinction. One is led to feel that the Methodist Episcopal Church did itself honor by electing him to the high office of bishop, the first to be elected from Florida.

Dr. Blanchard has provided a readable, inspiring story which deserves a permanent place in the archives of this era.

DOAK S. CAMPBELL

Florida State University

Millstones and Milestones: Florida's Public Health from 1889.

By Albert V. Hardy and May Pynchon. (Jacksonville: Florida State Board of Health Monograph No. 7. viii, 170 pp. Foreword, illustrations.)

A recounting of much of the medical history of Florida during the past seventy-five years is to be found within the covers of this monograph. Since its inception in 1889 the State Board of Health has vigorously battled epidemics such as yellow fever, dengue,

malaria, and even the plague. Less spectacular, perhaps, but equally rewarding have been its struggles with hook worm disease, dental decay, anemia in children, maternal and infant mortality, tuberculosis, venereal disease, encephalitis, and recently the leading chronic diseases—heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and glaucoma. Even less well known are its successful conquests of hog cholera, cattle ticks, and other economically disastrous farm animal diseases. Often taken for granted is the State Board of Health's contribution to the state's growth and welfare by supervising such activities as sewerage and waste disposal, and recently, control of air pollution.

Scattered here and there are human interest stories such as the dismay of the Health personnel when, after diligently teaching citizens to screen their houses against mosquitoes, they found that these same citizens were propping the screen door open to allow better ventilation. Another choice vignette is the story of the tubercular mother rocking placidly upon her porch while her children are locked in the Burr Portable Isolation Cottage erected by the State Board of Health for her own isolation. Still another choice tale of yesteryear is the surprise of the State Board of Health worker when she opened the door of such an isolation cottage only to learn that the patient had died a few days prior and the family had converted the building into a smoke house.

Those who find comfort in or have need of dates and other statistics will find this monograph most helpful. Here within a few pages are data one would lose many hours seeking individually. One might wish for more of the human interest stories, less duplication of information, and certainly better binding. This reviewer's copy fell apart as he was reading it. To this writer, the authors of the monograph seem naive when they assure us with apparent confidence that in the future "a recognized birthright of every child will be conception in response to parental planning."

Dr. Hardy and Mrs. Pynchon are to be commended for their industry in assembling and verifying the numerous data to be found in this monograph. Those interested in the medical history of Florida will find it an indispensable item for their study.

WILLIAM M. STRAIGHT

Miami, Florida