

BOOK REVIEWS

Home Lands: How Women Made the West. By Virginia Scharff and Carolyn Brucken. Berkeley, CA: University of California, in association with Los Angeles, CA: Autry National Center of the American West, 2010. Illustrations, index, and notes. 172 pp. \$24.95 paper.

Reviewed by Danielle J. Swiontek, Department of History, Santa Barbara City College.

This book is the companion volume to the similarly titled exhibit at the Autry National Center of the American West in Los Angeles, California, which ran from April 16 to August 22, 2010. Like the exhibit, the book seeks to reframe the standard narrative of the American West, shifting from a focus on the male, often Anglo, conquest of Native peoples to one centering on women's creation of "home" in the context of changing western environments. The book employs archaeological as well as more traditional historical sources to examine women's creation of social, political, and material culture. Taking a long and broad view of western development, the authors focus on three locations – New Mexico, Denver, and Puget Sound – to explore women's agency in "creatively adapt[ing] to and transform[ing] their physical and social landscapes" as well as "craft[ing] culture" (p. 3) in very different societies.

Home Lands is divided into three sections based on the locales noted above. The first chapter, "Home on Earth," centers on women in the Rio Arriba region of northern New Mexico. Beginning with the Pueblo Indians, the chapter explores how women interacted with the earth "to claim a home place, to sustain life" and "to make the present meaningful and the future a realm of human possibility" (p. 7). Over the course of more than 1000 years, Indian, Mexican, and Anglo women farmed, created household goods, moved when the soil was exhausted, and played an instrumental role in sustaining their societies. In the twentieth century, the political forces of Progressivism, two world wars, and a postwar boom, the authors note, remade New Mexico into a place of "urban sprawl, suburban growth, and economic development." Women participated in this dramatic change at every step. By the twenty-first century, New Mexican women drew upon popular memory of the Southwest to create a sustainable market in southwestern art.

In "Women In Motion Along the Front Range," the authors trace a similar pattern of development, but in this chapter they examine the impact of transportation and mobility on women and communities. They note the importance of horses and buffalo hunting, the development of the tipi as mobile housing, the interaction of Anglo and Indian communities in the fur trade, and the dramatic transformation of

the Rocky Mountain West brought about by the Homestead Act and the expansion of the railroads. The end of the chapter examines the effect of transportation – streetcars, trolleys, and automobiles – on the development of the city of Denver and its subsequent impact on women’s experiences as urban reformers and later, as suburban housewives in the postwar period.

Finally, in “Waterscapes of Puget Sound,” the book examines how women interacted with these waterscapes in the simultaneous creation of fluid economies of trade and stable communities in the Pacific Northwest. Here, Native peoples used the waterways as modes of transportation for seasonal trade and relied on marriage alliances to bind mobile and varied peoples together. Native conflicts over resources combined with Anglo American, Scandinavian, and Japanese migration in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries led to dramatic changes in the Puget Sound region. The timber, fishing, canning, and agricultural industries boomed, with a profound effect on the environment. As in Denver, the Progressive era and the post-World War II period led to dramatic changes in urban growth and suburban sprawl, while World War II witnessed the growth of the defense industry and the internment of local Japanese and Japanese-American residents. The chapter ends by noting the growing “eco-mom” movement in Seattle, which emphasizes environmental preservation through local consumption.

The time period covered in the volume – from roughly 700 AD to 2010 – naturally limits the book to an overview of what is complicated change in the three regions. The authors have compensated for this by stopping periodically to examine in more depth the stories of individuals ranging from Owl Woman, who played a central role as a liaison between Anglo and Indian communities in the Pacific Northwest as the wife of an American fur trader, to African American Dr. Justina Ford, who capitalized on the transportation boom to reach poor, immigrant, and black patients in Denver. These more in-depth moments are supplemented with beautiful color and black-and-white photographs of women’s material culture, from baskets to clothing to photographs to paintings. In the end, *Home Lands* provides an excellent overview of the development of these three regions, and its motif of “home” works well to reframe the standard narrative of the West. Teachers, general readers, and researchers can easily continue this theme of home in their examination of other regions, while gaining from this volume a valuable perspective on the centrality of women’s participation in the making of the American West.

Grand Ventures: The Banning Family and the Shaping of Southern California. By Tom Sitton. San Marino, CA: Huntington Library, 2010. Bibliography, illustrations, index, notes, and appendices. xii + 483 pp. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewed by Phil Brigandi, independent historian.

Phineas Banning (1830-1885) was a prominent figure in Southern California in the first decades after statehood. His ships, freight wagons, and stage coaches helped move people and goods in and out of the region. Later, his children and grandchildren would also play a role in the development of Southern California. Historian Tom Sitton traces the fortunes of the Banning family through the generations, along the way displaying an impressive array of research. His extensive notes will help guide future researchers (especially those with access to the incomparable collections of the Huntington Library).

Phineas Banning receives the lion's share of the attention (about 100 pages' worth), but his sons, William (1858-1946), Joseph (1861-1920), and Hancock (1865-1925), their siblings, children, grandchildren, and even cousins also have their time in the spotlight. And indeed the accomplishments of the family warrant such attention. Phineas Banning helped develop the port of San Pedro, founded the town of Wilmington (1858), and was a key player in Los Angeles County's first railroad, the Los Angeles & San Pedro (1869), which tied his wharves to the city. He had a knack for fostering government improvement projects that also benefited his personal enterprises, and worked closely with the Southern Pacific railroad for the same reason. The town of Banning, along the SP tracks in Riverside County, was named in his honor in 1877. The three Banning brothers owned Catalina Island from 1892 until 1919 and were responsible for much of the early tourist development there. Hancock Banning's wife, Anne Smith Banning (1871-1951), was a leader in Los Angeles philanthropic and social circles for decades.

This is truly a family history, beginning in Europe in the 16th century and continuing to Phineas Banning's great-grandchildren. But the book does not sugar-coat the story, and Sitton gives equal time to the many family feuds and personal quirks. Along the way, we learn more about what Phineas Banning did than who he was—but then, he was primarily a man of action. And while the title speaks of the shaping of Southern California, the book is mostly concerned with Los Angeles, and grows noticeably thin when dealing with Banning enterprises in other areas (with the exception of Catalina Island, which receives special attention).

Sitton's hefty volume helps to unravel Phineas Banning's many businesses, projects, and partnerships. It will be useful to anyone whose interests include the many Banning family enterprises. However, the names of scores of other prominent 19th-

and early 20th-century Angelenos also move through its pages making it appealing to those interested in the history of development in the metropolis.

Lilian J. Rice: Architect of Rancho Santa Fe, California. By Diane Y. Welch. Atglen, PA: Schiffer Publishing Ltd., 2010. Bibliography, illustrations, index, notes, and plans. 224 pp. \$49.99 cloth.

Reviewed by Molly McClain, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of San Diego.

Lilian Jeannette Rice (1889-1938) designed and built a variety of residential and commercial structures in San Diego County, most notably cottages, ranch houses, and large estates in Rancho Santa Fe. Among her works listed on the National Register of Historic Places are the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company Offices, the Charles Shaffer House, and the Claude & Florence Terwilliger home. She also remodeled the former Juan Osuna hacienda for Hollywood star Bing Crosby, built the Paul Ecke Ranch home in Encinitas, and won a prestigious award from the American Institute of Architects for her design of the ZLAC Rowing Club.

Diane Y. Welch writes a fascinating and beautifully illustrated biography of this early twentieth-century female architect, focusing on the decorative details that characterized her distinctive Mediterranean style. She explains that Rice showed sensitivity when fitting her structures into California's landscape, suggesting that she was an early twentieth-century example of an "eco-conscious designer, utilizing passive solar design." According to Welch, "The landscape in effect became her canvas, and her buildings conformed to the lay of the land; boulders, ridges, and arroyos provided opportunities to place her structures in harmony with these features, making full use of views, coastal breezes, and the position of the sun" (p. 42). The Hamilton Carpenter residence, for example, fits seamlessly into the grade of the site, as do many of her other structures.

Welch rescues Rice from charges that she took credit for work done by her employers, the architectural firm Requa and Jackson. She served as resident architect of the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company from 1923-28 – not her employers – and signed presentation drawings and completion notices, "Requa and Jackson Per LJR." Welch argues that she "should get credit for the work," as she had the authority to sign the documents with her initials (p. 211). The author also refutes the idea that Rice copied Richard S. Requa's "Southern California" style that drew on the architectural heritage of the Southwest, colonial Mexico, and Spain. Rice was inspired by a variety of con-

temporary architects and trends, including Julia Morgan, Hazel Waterman, the Arts & Crafts movement, and the landscape design philosophy of Berkeley's Hillside Club. In fact, she traveled to Spain in 1925, a year before Requa sketched the farmhouses of Andalusia. Having sent her as an advance scout, he later followed her itinerary.

Welch draws on previously unpublished sources to document Rice's life story and to shed light on the architectural community in early San Diego. She has done an admirable piece of detective work, particularly as the architect's correspondence and business documents were "relegated to the landfill" after her death in 1938 (p. 16). The book includes notes and a bibliography, along with a list of projects. Welch notes, however, that the list is incomplete as many houses designed by Rice have yet to be identified. The architect was very prolific, particularly after she opened her own office in Rancho Santa Fe in 1928.

The book uses contemporary photographs of Rancho Santa Fe homes, inside and out, to illustrate Rice's attention to detail. We see the distinctive Moorish-style chimney on the façade of the Ralph and Belle Claggett Residence, red clay tile roofs, iron grillwork, hurricane lamps and exterior light fixtures, and even a Mission bell at the Shafter Residence. Interior photographs show living rooms with tiled floors and fireplaces, wood-beamed ceilings, arched doorways, heavy mantelpieces, wrought-iron staircases, and bay windows. Landscape details show Rice's sensitivity to her environment and often include such features as vine-covered pergolas, tiled patios, and cisterns. Ventilation systems, tiled bathrooms, light fixtures, doors, hallways, and drapery rails are also documented in high-quality photographs by Bertocchini Photography, Paul Body Photography, Darren Edwards, Gary Conaughton, Juliana Charity Welch, and Ron Krisel.

The book also looks at Rice's commercial and institutional projects, including La Valenciana Apartments, a mixed-use office and residential project; the Inn at Rancho Santa Fe; San Dieguito Union High School; and the ZLAC Rowing Club in Pacific Beach, among others.

Rice died from ovarian cancer in 1938 at the age of forty-seven, leaving her associates Olive Chadeayne and Elinor Frazer to finish much of her remaining work. She is remembered as one of the few professional female architects in early twentieth-century California, an educated and successful career woman, a respected employer, a loving daughter, and a good-natured companion. Anyone interested in the built environment of Southern California, women's history and biography, and residential architectural design will be pleased to own this beautiful, and long-awaited, book.

California on the Breadlines: Dorothea Lange, Paul Taylor, and the Making of a New Deal Narrative. By Jan Goggans. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2010. Illustrations, index, and notes. xvi + 345 pp. \$34.95 cloth.

Reviewed by Greg Hall, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, Department of History, Western Illinois University.

Researching and writing from a unique perspective, Jan Goggans has crafted a meaningful history that is part biography, part agricultural labor history, and part photographic and textual analysis. The book is both thought-provoking and a pleasure to read. *California on the Breadlines* focuses on the personal and professional relationship between Dorothea Lange, one of the most celebrated and innovative photographers of the 1930s, and Paul Taylor, the socially and politically engaged labor economist who pioneered the field of agricultural labor studies. Although the relationship between Lange and Taylor is what holds the monograph together, it is Goggans's analysis of Lange's photography and of Taylor's research and writing that makes the book a creative examination of the Great Depression and New Deal in California.

Goggans documents the intellectual and cultural influences on Lange and Taylor as they matured into their chosen professions years before they met. Having emerged from different backgrounds, they nevertheless possessed values and sensibilities that would complement each others' work. They both settled in California and had established their own viable careers years before the Great Depression. Goggans also examines their earlier personal histories as well, which gives the book an intimate portrait of two very talented participants in the creation of the New Deal ethos as it unfolded in California.

Their collaboration began in the mid-1930s, as migrants from the Dust Bowl made a steady exodus to California for the promise of a new life in the West. The state and its agricultural system, in particular, were under enormous pressure to absorb an unwanted increase in population and a work force that outpaced available employment. That reality, coupled with organized labor's renewed resurgence in seeking democratic rights in the workplace, created a radical crucible from which emerged a new social ethic that both Lange and Taylor helped to create and document. Taylor's research and writing on California agricultural labor and the migrant population gave further purpose to Lange's photography while her work illuminated his by providing it with a greater impact and an enhanced accessibility. Their work culminated in *An American Exodus: A Record of Human Erosion*, a masterpiece of New Deal narrative.

Throughout her book, Goggans draws extensively upon the primary sources left behind by Lange and Taylor. She brings forth their voices in this history and contextualizes their work with an innovative analysis supported by a wide range of

secondary sources. Moreover, she demonstrates an adept handling of several different fields of scholarly inquiry to produce an elegant portrait of a professional as well as a personal relationship. With Lange and Taylor both deeply affected by and engaged in some of the most dramatic events in California during the tumultuous decade of the 1930s, *California on the Breadlines* proves itself to be an accessible monograph that would be of interest to a variety of readers, students, and scholars.

The American Indian Occupation of Alcatraz Island: Red Power and Self-Determination. By Troy R. Johnson. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2008. Bibliography, illustrations, index, notes, and appendix. xii + 283 pp. \$18.95 paper.

Reviewed by Nicolas G. Rosenthal, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Loyola Marymount University.

First published in 1996 by the University of Illinois Press (and reviewed in *The Journal of San Diego History* 43:4 (Fall 1997)), this second edition of Troy R. Johnson's work on the 1969-70 American Indian occupation of Alcatraz Island features an altered title and a new afterword by the author. It remains important both for its informative narrative of a crucial event in 20th century United States history and its foregrounding of Native people's experiences and reflections. Yet, this latest edition lacks the type of critical reflection that readers might expect from an author twelve years after the initial publication.

Johnson's argument, stated in the introduction, is that the nineteen-month occupation "ushered in a new era of American Indian activism that continued well into the mid-1970s and kept national attention focused on Indian rights and grievances" (p. 1). Much of the book that follows is a description of the events leading up to and during the major Indian takeover of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay. On March 9, 1964, in an attempt to publicize the poor conditions of Indians living in San Francisco, five Sioux Indians arrived on the island, read a proclamation, held a victory dance, and then returned to the city. Over the next five years as more Native people migrated to the Bay Area, the concern with the lack of jobs, decent housing, and cultural space continued to grow and led to another seizure of the island in November 1969. Extensive media coverage publicized this occupation, which allowed broader Indian grievances to reach a global audience, bringing in support and additional participants from across the country and around the world. The momentum eventually flagged, however, and just fifteen protestors remained when authorities quietly ended the occupation in June 1970. Nonetheless, Alcatraz continued to serve as inspiration for

Native people and led to a series of similarly high-profile protests around the country collectively dubbed the “Red Power” movement.

As it has since its first publication, the *Occupation of Alcatraz* provides an important account of events critical for understanding American Indian and United States history. Indeed, there is likely no scholar or teacher of Native people in the twentieth century who has not relied upon Johnson’s detailed narrative of the Alcatraz occupation for exploring such topics as Indian activism, urbanization, pan-Indian identity, and the shift towards government policies of self-determination. Recent scholarship has added layers of complexity to these issues, something that could have been effectively addressed by the new afterward. Furthermore, many of the critiques made following the first edition are still notable, such as the tendency towards light analysis, a failure to systematically develop the thesis, and the uncritical presentation of first-person testimonies. It is therefore disappointing that the author chose both to leave the original text wholly intact and to use the afterward as a way of continuing the narrative through the major protest activities of the 1970s, taking only passing note of the time elapsed since the first edition. In the end, the *Occupation of Alcatraz* has given scholars and teachers a great deal. This publication of a second edition, however, represents a missed opportunity by the author to revise the work and place it in context, thereby contributing even more.

Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies. By Reyner Banham. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1971. Second Edition, 2009. Bibliography, illustrations, and index, li + 238 pp. \$22.95 paper.

Reviewed by Lawrence A. Herzog, Professor and Chair, Graduate Program in City Planning, School of Public Affairs, San Diego State University.

In its time, Reyner Banham’s *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies* was somewhat of an academic bombshell for architectural historians and urbanist scholars. The book, first published in 1971 (and appearing here with its original text and a new foreword), challenged at least two prevailing wisdoms of the era: first, that architectural history books should consist of a chronological, ordered presentation of the evolution of important buildings and forms in a city; second, that Los Angeles, with its low density sprawl, homogenous suburbs, gridlocked freeways, and slavish attachment to the automobile, was an urban design disaster.

In no uncertain terms, Banham turned both of these notions upside down. He argued for a design history that went beyond the usual encyclopedia-like catalogue of