

Boy and Carlota Mike. In addition, Trafzer offers contemporary information about Twenty-Nine Palms using its revenue from the Spotlight 29 Casino to support the Native American Land Conservancy, an intertribal non-profit effort to purchase, preserve, and protect cultural lands, animals, plants, and sacred places.

This book represents a significant contribution to the field of Indian history. It includes a glossary of terms, photographs, and several maps of Southern California and traditional territory of the Chemehuevi, crossing state borders of California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. In addition, it includes cultural aspects, such as humor, not regularly found in history books. For example, the story of elder Jim Ticup reportedly telling prospector Jim McHaney about the location of gold that led him to spending the next 35 years digging for gold. A small inclusion, it offers levity to the generally painful and violent history of gold seekers invading traditional lands of indigenous people.

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IN THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION: Eyewitness Chronicles of Mt. St. Helens, by Richard Waitt (Pullman: Washington State University Press, 2014), x, 413 pp.

The May 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens was a seminal event in the contemporary history of the Pacific Northwest. The Cascades were built through volcanic activity, but most people could not imagine one actually erupting until May 18, 1980. This book, written by a geologist who was there, provides first-person accounts combined with the scientific research to furnish a definitive account of what happened to Mt. St. Helens.

Richard Waitt was with the U.S. Geological Survey, conducting volcano research in the Cascades when Mt. St. Helens stirred back to life in March 1980. After the devastating eruption, he began to interview eyewitnesses to augment the scientific research. These interviews continued for 30 years and they form the basis for this book. Waitt sets the stage with some background history of the mountain, followed with its awaking signaled by a series of earthquakes. The tension builds as we anticipate what is about to happen, then the heart of the book deals with that fateful Sunday. Waitt states that a number of individuals within the devastated area “left accounts of some sort. Five got off radio messages or photographs before perishing. Some escaped in speeding automobiles. More than fifty die who leave no direct story.” (p. 151) The eyewitness accounts are simply incredible, especially of the survivors directly in the zone of total destruction.

This book should serve as the definitive eyewitness account of the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens, and it

is highly recommended. The book includes a number of photographs, maps, lists of participants and interviews, sources and methods, notes, references, and an index.

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OLD BLUE’S ROAD: A Historian’s Motorcycle Journeys in the American West, by James Whiteside (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2015), 267 pp., \$19.95 pb.

James Whiteside is a storyteller of Western stories with a fantastic memory for detail and a vivid storytelling style—he is also a motorcyclist. This book is his a compilation of his musings and wanderings on Old Blue, his trusty Harley Davidson that takes him from his Colorado home to Vancouver, B.C., down the Santa Fe Trail, and to many other places throughout the American West. Whiteside clearly knows that every place has a story and he skillfully brings those stories to bear as he describes his passage through a town or past a marker or community of some kind. “Experiencing the West from the saddle of a motorcycle helped me to see and experience how profoundly the past and the present rub up against each other.” (p. 2) As a fellow motorcyclist and historian I share Whiteside’s enthusiastic belief that there is something to be said for thinking through the stories of the great Western landscapes on the back of a bike. I think that there are few of us who understand this because we’ve lived it; however, this may be the convincing tale that puts more Harley philosopher poets in the saddle to imagine and experience their own versions of the West and the unique history it has to offer.

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THE FORGOTTEN GOVERNOR: Fernando de Rivera and the Opening of Alta California, by John Wills (Minneapolis, MN: Langdon Street Press, 2015), 352 pp., \$21.95 pb.

This is the first book-length biography of Fernando de Rivera, who played an instrumental role in the establishment of Spanish missions, presidios, and pueblos in Alta California in the late eighteenth century. John Wills draws on an array of sources to uncover the life and career of a military man whose legacy as a leader in early California has been shrouded in negativity. Rivera served initially in Baja California before being promoted to military commander of the province in 1751. When Spain pushed north in 1769, he was chosen to lead the

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