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A humorous, quirky, and heartfelt portrait of Nevada’s backcountry and the people who inhabit it

Outback Nevada
Real Stories from the Silver State

JOHN M. GLIONNA

“This collection is a vivid tapestry of human stories, representing twenty-first-century rural life in a state known for its eccentricity. . .the essays collected here are masterful glimpses into the realities of the region’s diverse residents. . . . the author presents them with precise details, enthusiasm, and a sense of humor.”

—Scott Slovic, University Distinguished Professor of Environmental Humanities, University of Idaho and author of Going Away to Think: Engagement, Retreat, and Ecocritical Responsibility

Join author John M. Glionna on a journey to discover the real Nevada, a place inhabited by diverse, spirited, and sometimes quirky people who make up the fabric of the Silver State. Outback Nevada explores the far-flung corners of the seventh-largest state in the nation and introduces its readers to the humanity, courage, strength, and charm of these little-known Americans. Each story is part of the vast collection of published articles Glionna has written during his decades of work as a journalist for the Los Angeles Times and the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Glionna’s interest in Nevada’s rugged, isolated landscape and the people who choose to live in this often-harsh environment was born of his own wanderings into the “outback.” Through his stories, he shares intimate portraits of rural and small-town lifestyles not many understand. Readers will meet men with names like Flash and Mr. Cool; will listen to a cowboy minister preach the word of God to his parishioners; will walk with an antiques dealer from Genoa as he hunts for denim in Nevada’s abandoned nineteenth-century mine shafts; and will learn from an ex-paramedic–turned–coffee-shop–owner who provides Boulder City with a true sense of community. Full of humor, eccentricities, and compassion, these stories reveal the state’s true nature and extend an invitation to get lost “somewhere out there” in the real Nevada.

John M. Glionna was a Seoul-based Los Angeles Times foreign correspondent from 2008 to 2012 and covered South Korea, North Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and the Pacific Islands. Later, as the paper’s Las Vegas bureau chief, Glionna covered the American West. He has written extensively about California and co-taught a journalism course at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Glionna is now a freelance writer who divides his time between Las Vegas, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

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“Nancy Zubiri’s interviews bring out the voices of the actors who have made Jaialdi such a success. All these voices are woven together into a narrative that is nicely structured into theme-based sub-chapters. It is a very enjoyable read and transmits vividly the people’s enjoyment and dedication to the festival and its Basque culture.”

—MARIANN VACZI, assistant professor and director of graduate studies, University of Nevada, Reno Center for Basque Studies, author of Soccer, Culture, and Society in Spain: An Ethnography of Basque Fandom
This colorful Basque festival comes to life through vivid photography and lively prose

Jaialdi
A Celebration of Basque Culture

NANCY ZUBIRI, Photographs by JON C. HODGSON

First held in 1987, Jaialdi is the United States’s largest Basque festival and takes place in Boise every five years. Through vivid photography and a recounting of personal interviews with event founders and organizers, Jaialdi: A Celebration of Basque Culture provides a stunning account of how the ancient traditions of these industrious people are showcased through the activities and events of Jaialdi.

Organized and staffed entirely by volunteers, Jaialdi attracts 35,000 to 50,000 visitors from around the world. Attendees enjoy festivities featuring Basque culture, including dancing, music, food, and competitive feats of strength. Photographer Jon C. Hodgson captures the spirit and merriment of the festival in vivid detail, taking readers on a journey into the heart of Basque culture. Coupled with author Nancy Zubiri’s observations from her own attendance at nearly every Jaialdi since 1987, the book reveals how Boise’s Basque community has committed to host the festival and why the celebration remains so popular today.

The Basque diaspora to the United States began in the late 1800s when these determined immigrants came seeking a new life filled with opportunities. Many were sheepherders who adapted to American life while maintaining their ties to the traditions of the Basque Country. Jaialdi: A Celebration of Basque Culture illuminates how this festival honors these traditions and captures the essence of the ancient Basque people, who are preserving their heritage while embracing life in the twenty-first-century West.

Nancy Zubiri is an author and journalist who has written about Basque culture for more than two decades. She is the editor of EuskalKazeta.com, which focuses on Basque culture, people, and Basque-American events. Her interest in the Basque community came from her father, who immigrated from the Basque town of Aldudes. She is the author of A Travel Guide to Basque America: Families, Feasts, and Festivals.

Jon C. Hodgson is a photographer and Basque American. He grew up on the island of Jamaica and has had a passion for photography since he was a child. His work focuses primarily on events involving people, but he also shoots travel and landscape photography.
Sometimes playful, sometimes comical, and often bitingly truthful Chicanx short stories

How to Date a Flying Mexican
New and Collected Stories

DANIEL A. OLIVAS

“Daniel Olivas loves to tell stories and his writing reflects that joy. Every story is told with a wink and a smile, encouraging you to follow along for the ride. His humor not only brings levity to matters of life, death, and human treachery, but it is also a stylistic choice that Olivas has mastered. These stories aren’t so much about the interiority of their characters, but about the mythical, magical mundanity of our lives—Olivas’s style perfectly expresses this contradiction.”

—Maceo Montoya, associate professor of Chicano/a Studies, University of California, Davis, and author of Preparatory Notes for Future Masterpieces

“Olivas has the voice of both an ancient and modern storyteller. He is very deft and sure with language. The stories make a significant contribution to the Latinx community and beyond.”

—David Kranes, professor emeritus of English, University of Utah, and author of Keno Runner, Abracadabra, and Performance Art: Stories

How to Date a Flying Mexican is a collection of stories derived from Chicano and Mexican culture but ranging through fascinating literary worlds of magical realism, fairy tales, fables, and dystopian futures. Many of Daniel A. Olivas’s characters confront—both directly and obliquely—questions of morality, justice, and self-determination.

The collection is made up of Olivas’s favorite previously published stories, along with two new stories—one dystopian and the other magical—that challenge the Trump administration’s anti-immigration rhetoric and policies. How to Date a Flying Mexican draws together some of Olivas’s most unforgettable and strange tales, allowing readers to experience his very distinct, and very Chicano, fiction.

Daniel A. Olivas, the grandson of Mexican immigrants, was born and raised near downtown Los Angeles. He is an award-winning author of fiction, nonfiction, plays, and poetry. Widely anthologized, Olivas has written on culture and literature for The New York Times, Los Angeles Review of Books, BOMB, Jewish Journal, High Country News, and The Guardian. He writes regularly for La Bloga, a site dedicated to Latinx literature and the arts. By day, Olivas is an attorney and makes his home in Southern California.
Guarding the Golden Gate
A History of the U.S. Quarantine Station in San Francisco Bay

J. GORDON FRIERSON, MD

“Guarding the Golden Gate is a remarkably extensive history of isolation and quarantine as practiced in San Francisco. The scholarship is first-rate.”
—George W. Rutherford, MD, Salvatore Pablo Lucia Professor of Epidemiology, Preventive Medicine, Pediatrics, and History and Head of the Division of Infectious Disease and Global Epidemiology, University of California San Francisco

As a major seaport, San Francisco had for decades struggled to control infectious diseases carried by passengers on ships entering the port. In 1882, a steamer from Hong Kong arrived carrying over 800 Chinese passengers, including one who had smallpox. The steamer was held in quarantine for weeks, during which time more passengers on board the ship contracted the disease. This episode convinced port authorities that better means of quarantining infected ship arrivals were necessary.

Guarding the Golden Gate covers not only the creation and operation of the station, which is integral to San Francisco’s history, but also discusses the challenges of life on Angel Island—a small, exposed, and nearly waterless landmass on the north side of the Bay. The book reveals the steps taken to prevent the spread of diseases not only into the United States but also into other ports visited by ships leaving San Francisco; the political struggles over the establishment of a national quarantine station; and the day-to-day life of the immigrants and staff inhabiting the island. With the advancement of the understanding of infectious diseases and the development of treatments, the quarantine station’s activities declined in the 1930s, and the facility ultimately shuttered its doors in 1949.

While Angel Island is now a California state park, it remains as a testament to an influential period in the nation’s history that offers rich insights into efforts to maintain the public’s safety during health crises.

J. Gordon Frierson, MD, is clinical professor emeritus in the Department of Medicine, University of California San Francisco. After a decades-long career in the medical field, Frierson continues his longstanding interest in the history of medicine with the publication of Guarding the Golden Gate. He is a member of the Bay Area History of Medicine Society, the American Osler Society, and the American Association for the History of Medicine.
“Weber’s geographic take on Las Vegas history allows readers to not only understand the ‘what’ of the city’s past and present, but also the ‘where.’ Such a perspective gives way to a profound appreciation of and deep connection to this unique place. I learned something new in every chapter.”

—Rex J. Rowley, professor of geography, Illinois State University, author of Everyday Las Vegas: Local Life in a Tourist Town
A new perspective on the geographical history of Las Vegas

Mapping Historical Las Vegas

A Cartographic Journey

JOE WEBER

“The work is diligent and competent, the maps are clear and consistent, and the writing is straightforward and fact-based.”

—Richard Campanella, geographer and associate dean for research, Tulane School of Architecture

Las Vegas has a long and rich history that extends far beyond the clichés of “sin city,” the Mafia, Elvis, or mindless urban sprawl. Mapping Historical Las Vegas takes readers beyond stereotypical tales and provides an illustrated cartographic exploration of the entire region from the time of the ancient Anasazi farmers to the present. Weber shows the development of the surrounding area, revealing a geographical perspective on the city’s growth, including the influence of water, public land surveys, transportation routes, and the construction of casinos on Las Vegas’s evolution.

Reaching past the city limits, Mapping Historical Las Vegas also examines the development of public lands, military bases, and the canyons and valleys of the Colorado River before the Hoover Dam was built and Lake Mead was created. Weber also includes information on dams, highways, railroads, and other projects that were planned but never constructed—showing what might have been in one of the nation’s largest cities.

With 137 color maps generated using Geographic Information Systems, along with extensive mapping by Weber that draws on his decades of experience in the region, Mapping Historical Las Vegas offers a unique perspective on one of the world’s most famous desert cities.

Joe Weber is a professor of geography at the University of Alabama, but he often returns to Las Vegas, a place filled with fond memories from his time as a youth growing up in the city. Weber received his PhD from Ohio State University, which led him to his present academic work focused on the changing geography of both national parks and the American highway system.
An examination of the role that stories play in the cultivation of a sustainable water ethic

Tributary Voices
Literary and Rhetorical Explorations of the Colorado River

PAUL A. FORMISANO

“Formisano’s research is dazzling, wide-ranging, and richly multidisciplinary. He not only knows, but helpfully offers, informative mini-lectures on recent fields such as Latinx environmental justice and ‘Indigenizing Environmental Justice,’ where differing conceptions of the relationship to the Earth lead to seeking relationships of reciprocity.”
—Melody Graulich, professor emerita of English and American Studies, Utah State University, author of Exploring Lost Borders: A Collection of Essays About Mary Austin

The Colorado River is in crisis. Persistent drought, climate change, and growing demands from ongoing urbanization threaten this life-source that provides water to more than forty million people in the U.S. and Mexico. Coupled with these challenges are our nation’s deeply rooted beliefs about the region as a frontier, garden, and wilderness that have created competing agendas about the river as something to both exploit and preserve. Over the last century and a half, citizens and experts looked to law, public policy, and science to solve worsening water problems. Yet today’s circumstances demand additional perspectives to foster a more sustainable relationship with the river.

Through literary, rhetorical, and historical analysis of some of the Colorado River’s lesser-known stakeholders, Tributary Voices considers a more comprehensive approach to river management on the eve of the one-hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Colorado River Compact, which governs the allocation of water rights to the seven states in the region. Ranging from the early twentieth century to the present, Tributary Voices examines nature writing, women’s narratives, critiques of dam development, the Latina/o communities’ appeals for river restoration, American Indian authors’ and tribal nations’ claims of water sovereignty, and teachings about environmental stewardship and provident living. This innovative study models an interdisciplinary approach to water governance and reinvigorates our imagination in achieving a more sustainable water ethic.

Paul A. Formisano is associate professor of English and director of writing at the University of South Dakota. He teaches and writes about Western American literature and the environmental humanities’ value in addressing the West’s natural resource issues.
In the fight for social justice, Black homeowners made a stand for housing equality

The Coveted Westside
How the Black Homeowners’ Rights Movement Shaped Modern Los Angeles

JENNIFER MANDEL

“The Coveted Westside is an extremely well-researched and clearly written manuscript that synthesizes a lot of the literature on Black Los Angeles and makes several key contributions of its own. The material is impeccably researched and novel...and the richest account I’ve seen.”
—Josh Sides, Whitsett Professor of California History, California State University-Northridge, director of the Center for Southern California Studies, author of L.A. City Limits: African American Los Angeles from the Great Depression to the Present

From the middle of the nineteenth century, as Euro-Americans moved westward, they carried with them long-held prejudices against people of color. By the time they reached the West Coast, their new settlements included African Americans and recent Asian immigrants, as well as the indigenous inhabitants and descendants of earlier Spanish and Mexican settlers. The Coveted Westside deals with the settlement and development of Los Angeles in the context of its multiracial, multiethnic population, especially African Americans.

Mandel exposes the enduring struggle between Whites determined to establish their hegemony and create residential heterogeneity in the growing city, and people of color equally determined to obtain full access to the city and the opportunities, including residential, that it offered. Not only does this book document the Black homeowners’ fight against housing discrimination, it shares personal accounts of Blacks’ efforts to settle in the highly desirable Westside of Los Angeles. Mandel explores the White-derived social and legal mechanisms that created this segregated city and the African American-led movement that challenged efforts to block access to fair housing.

Jennifer Mandel, PhD, serves as associate director of assessment in the University of New England’s Office of the Provost. In addition to her administrative role, she has taught history courses at the University of New England, Granite State College, Hesser College, and the University of New Hampshire. Mandel has published work on African American journalist and activist Almena Lomax in the Southern California Quarterly. She was born and raised in Los Angeles.
2020 BETSY JOINER FLANAGAN POETRY PRIZE WINNER

An exploration of the Western feminine archetype
and the lived experience of femininity

Interior Femme
Poems

STEPHANIE BERGER

“Interior Femme is a tour de force of sorrow and celebration, where readers will find a timely reminder of the terms we find ourselves in, here in our bodies and on this planet, circa 2021. Stephanie Berger has written an astonishing first book—a must read!”

—Claudia Keelan, professor of English, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, editor of Interim, and author of We Step into the Sea

Stephanie Berger’s debut poetry collection, Interior Femme, cracks the earth open and exposes the “woman inside.” In a sequence of poems that present variations on the Western feminine archetype and explore the experience of femininity today, Interior Femme visits many unique locales, from cemeteries in Brooklyn to canyons in New Mexico to churches in San Diego, Paris, and Peru. Berger approaches her subjects—mothers, goddesses, whores, daughters, muses, and movie stars—from multiple angles, and through her poems she reveals historical, personal, ontological, social, environmental, literary, and artistic viewpoints. The poems offer layered perspectives fused with multiple versions of female representation, as if to underscore the burden of responsibility, inherited shame, and awesome power that comes with the position women have occupied throughout history.

At the center of the book is Mnemosyne, goddess of memory and mother of the nine muses, who is crumbling under the terrific burden of remembering. In these poems, there is a woman critically wounded—representing the totality of the Western feminine imaginary—who is seeking answers to dire questions. Lyrically complex, sometimes surreal, and often ekphrastic in style and content, Interior Femme simultaneously offers heartbreak, laughter, comfort, and empowerment.

Stephanie Berger is a poet, performer, experience designer, community organizer, and entrepreneur. She earned her bachelor’s degree in philosophy at the University of Southern California, received an MFA in poetry from the New School, and taught writing and film in the Department of English at Pace University. Berger is the founder and CEO of The Poetry Society of New York. She is the author of two chapbooks, and her writing has appeared in numerous publications, including The New York Times and The New Yorker.
WINNER OF THE 2020 TEST SITE POETRY SERIES PRIZE
An excavation of a post-patriarchal world, inspired by ancient sites, oracles, and goddess wisdom

A Sybil Society
Poems
KATHERINE FACTOR

“In A Sybil Society, Katherine Factor has made a new prosody, using urban slang, internet shorthand, and all the variations of American English in the twenty-first century, a system of new sound that refuses easy epiphany, offering instead a twisting language, mad speaker, and always original address to try to reach us, here, on what’s left of our earth.”
—Ronaldo V. Wilson, Test Site Poetry Advisory Board member, author of several poetry collections, and winner of the Pushcart Prize

With fearless and playful language, Katherine Factor’s debut collection reveals agony, humor, and the necessary voices of the female oracle through time. The oracle’s message is apparent—she is not dead. Her words are cryptic but contemporary, offering caution along with guidance to a society interested only in using prophecy for profit.

In a time when only a select few are prosperous, A Sybil Society paints a portrait of the present moment and unveils a restless truth. The collection is fearless in the face of convention and gives readers a sense of devastating sorrow in a world gone mad.

Katherine Factor is an editor, book coach, and children’s book author. She received her MFA in poetry from the University of Iowa Writers’ Workshop and has held positions at the Idyllwild Arts Academy and Interlochen Arts Academy. Her poems and audio work have been published by Interim, The Conversant, Quarterly West, Poets for Living Waters, The Equalizer, DIAGRAM, and the Colorado Review, and on WFMU and TextSound.org.

Awarded by Interim: A Journal of Poetry and Poetics, The Test Site Poetry Prize is given annually to a poet whose work engages with the perilous conditions of life in the twenty-first century, as they pertain to issues of social justice and the Earth. The winning manuscript demonstrates an ethos that considers the human condition in inclusive love and sympathy.
Robert Laxalt

The Story of a Storyteller

WARREN LERUDE

“There’s no one better suited to tell the story of a great storyteller than someone who fits that description himself. Warren Lerude has given us a remarkable chronicle of the life of Nevada legend Robert Laxalt. It is a book that is thoroughly researched, crisply written, and honest to a fault.”
—Joe Crowley, President Emeritus, University of Nevada, Reno

Robert Laxalt, from the publication of his book Sweet Promised Land in 1957, was an internationally admired icon in the literary world of the American West. In 1961, he founded the University of Nevada Press, which has since published many books on Basque culture, history, people, and traditions. Through the continued publication of these works, the Press honors Laxalt’s vision of contributing to the understanding and appreciation of regional history and culture for both scholarly and general audiences, while paying homage to his Basque roots. Warren Lerude unveils Laxalt’s unique life story in Robert Laxalt: The Story of a Storyteller, published by the Center for Basque Studies Press in 2013.

Laxalt was the author of seventeen books, including the iconic Sweet Promised Land, which was hailed by The New York Times as having “such high literary merit that his book deserves universal regard as a classic of Americana.” Laxalt was credited with being the voice of the Basques in American literature through his many books about Basque American life and National Geographic articles about his ancestral home in the Basque Country of France and Spain. Not only was he a prolific author, he also taught writing at the Reynolds School of Journalism for eighteen years. Laxalt died in 2001. The Robert Laxalt Distinguished Writing Program honors him annually.

Robert Laxalt was a western author who nurtured the Western literary and journalistic community. . . . He was a consummate storyteller, and his work remains universal in its themes and enduring in its subtle power.”

—Alan Deutschman, biographer of Steve Jobs

Warren Lerude is coauthor of a best-seller, American Commander in Spain: Robert Hale Merriman and the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, and author of the text of another best-seller, Robert Cameron’s Above Tahoe and Reno. He is former editor and publisher of the Reno Evening Gazette and the Nevada State Journal newspapers, where he led a team of three journalists to win the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism for Editorial Writing in 1977. He has served as professor of media law, management, and professional internships for three decades at his alma mater, the Reynolds School of Journalism at the University of Nevada, Reno.

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Robert Laxalt’s bestselling book about family, heritage, and home

Sweet Promised Land

ROBERT LAXALT • FOREWORD BY ANN RONALD

“One of the most distinguished books of the year and one no Western reader should miss reading cover to cover.”
—Los Angeles Times

Dominique Laxalt was sixteen when he left the French Pyrenees for America. He became a sheepherder in the Nevada desert and nearby hills of the Sierra. Like all his fellow Basque immigrants, Dominique dreamed of someday returning to the land of his beginnings. Most Basques never made the journey back, but Dominique finally did return for a visit with family and friends. Sweet Promised Land is the story of that trip, told by his son Robert, who accompanied him to the pastoral mountain village of Tardets in France. Dominique came home victorious, the adventurer who had conquered the unknown and found his fortune in the New World. He told of his life in America, the hardships and challenges, and began to realize that he had changed since his departure from Tardets. By the end of the visit, he knew with certainty where he belonged.

During the past fifty years, this book has become a classic in Western American literature, still beloved by the Basque-American community. In celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the book’s publication, Western literature scholar Ann Ronald wrote a new foreword, discussing the book in the context of American and Nevadan literature.

Robert Laxalt grew up in Carson City, Nevada. He attended Santa Clara University in California and later graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno. He joined the staff of the University of Nevada in 1954, serving first as director of News and Publications and later as director of the University of Nevada Press, which he founded. He was named a Reynolds Distinguished Visiting Professor and was the first occupant of the Distinguished Nevada Author Chair. He lived in Washoe Valley until his death in 2001.
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The History of Basque Music

Edited by JOHN OKIÑENA

“Basque music” refers to the music that is created or experienced where Basque culture has been established or is practiced, mainly in the present-day Euskal Herria (Basque Country) but also outside of its borders, including the music created by Basques in the diaspora. This work embraces a chronological view of music from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century and also includes the most recent trends in composition with the addition of chapters on women and Basque music and a brief history of jazz and popular music.

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Basque for English Speakers

BEATRIZ FERNÁNDEZ
Translation by EIDER ETXEBARRIA ZULUAGA

People familiar with the two languages generally have the impression that Basque and English could not be more different. While this may certainly be true in terms of their more superficial features, they are more similar than one might at first suspect in their internal structure. This book explores this apparent dichotomy.

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The Bilbao Consulate and its Ordinances
The Tenacity of the Captains, Shipmasters, Merchants and Traders of Bilbao
MARGARITA SERNA VALLEJO

The founding of the Consulate of Bilbao took place in 1511. However, the process of its creation began in 1495, immediately after the Burgos merchants obtained the first Crown of Castile in 1494 from Catholic monarchs. The merchant then used this kingdom to create their own consulate. The Consulate of Bilbao and its Ordinances is a study framed between the peninsular consular histories, from the appearance of the first consulates in the Crown of Aragon during the late Middle Ages until the Bourbon reforms of the eighteenth century.

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The Ulysses Syndrome
A Psychological Approach to Basque Migrations
Edited by JOSEBA ATXOTEGI

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