

# TCU Press

New and Selected  
Books



Fall 2021

## It'll Rain Someday . . . Always Does

*A Historical Narrative*

**Carol Durham Henderson**

A man to rival a strong character drawn from fiction, author Carol Henderson's great-grandfather was frontier Texas-born in the year 1860. Full of grit and determination, Thomas Henry (T. H.) Cherryhomes lived to crease the edges of Texana. *It'll Rain Someday . . . Always Does* is the tale of that strong, remarkable man, his difficult life and treacherous times. More than a rags to riches story, it is the tale of everyman, everywoman, who with heroic courage fixed their sights on an uncertain future. Riding horseback away from a hardscrabble dirt farm, a good mother, an abusive father, and six siblings, at the age of sixteen T. H. headed west toward Amarillo. Joining other cowpokes, he rode the Chisholm Trail, where he learned the skill of driving a hard bargain and found his calling: cattle ranching. Enduring hell, high water, and more than a few nightmares, he made his dream come true. Pushing through the end of the nineteenth century into the twentieth, his exploits left a story for the ages. This book, drawn from tattered handwritten letters, dusty photographs, and family lore and legend, narrates the life of a man whose history begs to see the light of day.

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Writer, ranch owner, and retired art dealer CAROL DURHAM HENDERSON cherishes the ranching way of life. Calling Jacksboro, Texas, and the ten thousand-acre Henderson-Durham Ranch her home, she is a fourth-generation ranch owner. This book, based on personal experience and historical truths, is her first.

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978-0-87565-791-2 cloth \$36.95  
9x9. 184 pp. 174 b&w photos. 1 color.  
Texas Ranching. Texas History. Photography.  
October

### RELATED INTEREST



**The Harness  
Maker's Dream**  
*Nathan Kallison and the  
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**Nick Kotz**  
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**El Paso 120**  
*Edge of the Southwest*  
**Mark Paulda**  
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cloth \$35.00

## We're for Smoke

*Outlaws and Outliers of Panther City*

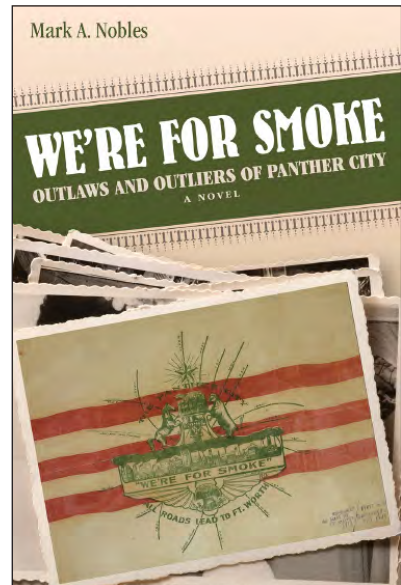
**Mark A. Nobles**

From Hell's Half Acre to Quality Grove, *We're for Smoke* tells the wild and woolly story of turn-of-the-century Fort Worth, a cow town on the cusp of becoming a modern industrial city.

Told through a series of characters who made the papers for tangles with the law, ranging from high and low society, black and white, male and female, perpetrator and victim, *We're for Smoke* reveals a society scrabbling to emerge from the chaotic growing pains of the frontier West.

Readers and fans of *The Son* by Philipp Meyer, *Boardwalk Empire* by Nelson Johnson, and Larry McMurtry's *Horseman Pass By* would enjoy *We're for Smoke*.

MARK A. NOBLES is a sixth-generation Texan. Born on Fort Worth's infamous Jacksboro Highway, Mark proudly claims blood and kinship with Thunder Road's gamblers, outlaws, and wastrels. He is the author of *Fort Worth's Rock and Roll Roots* and has produced three feature documentaries.



978-0-87565-786-8 paper \$24.95

978-0-87565-798-1 ebook

6x9. 168 pp.

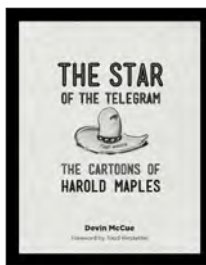
Fiction. Western Fiction.

September

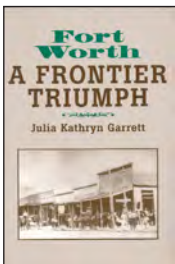
## RELATED INTEREST



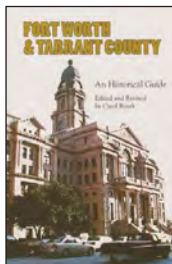
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## Old Money, New West

*Fife Symington and the Uniquely American Landscapes That Made Him, Broke Him, and Made Him Anew*

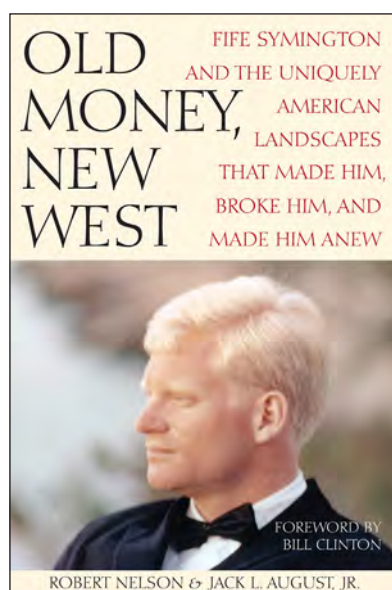
**Robert Nelson & Jack L. August Jr.**

By 1994, Arizona Governor Fife Symington was arguably the hottest young star in the Republican Party—a lively, articulate voice for a new breed of culturally moderate conservatives perfectly positioned for a US Senate run and perhaps a shot at the presidency in 2000. Instead, earlier decisions and mistakes he made as his real estate empire collapsed amid the Savings and Loan Crisis would torpedo his political career, bankrupt him, and place him at the doorstep of federal prison. Then a new century—along with a preemptive presidential pardon from Clinton—brought new hope and opportunities as well as international fame in the world of UFO research. While unique, Symington's story is also an American story. Born into one of the wealthiest families in America, Symington could have hunkered down in old-money leisure. Instead, he left the country to fight in Southeast Asia and then, like millions of Americans before him, went to make his name amid yet another real estate boom in the American West. He brought his old-school conservative fiscal philosophies with him, but soon found himself at war with the cultural conservatives within his own party, particularly on issues of immigration and the environment. Symington was an early pioneer in successfully navigating what is now an existential threat for moderates in the Republican Party: how to govern with conservative-leaning values without kowtowing to the worst instincts of the radicalized, nativist right.

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ROBERT NELSON has won more than one hundred state, regional, and national writing awards during his thirty-year journalism career. His work has appeared in the anthology *Best American Crime Writing* as well as in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, and *Los Angeles Times*, among many other publications. JACK L. AUGUST JR. was named state historian and director of Institutional Advancement at the Arizona Capitol Museum in 2016. A Fulbright Scholar, National Endowment for the Humanities Research Fellow, and Pulitzer Prize nominee, August was the author of ten books, several focusing on the history of the New American West. He passed away in January of 2017.

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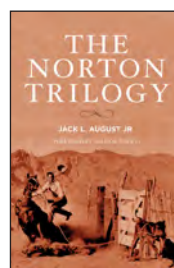


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## A Bridge from Darkness to Light

*Thirteen Young Photographers Explore Their Afghanistan*  
**Bill Wright**

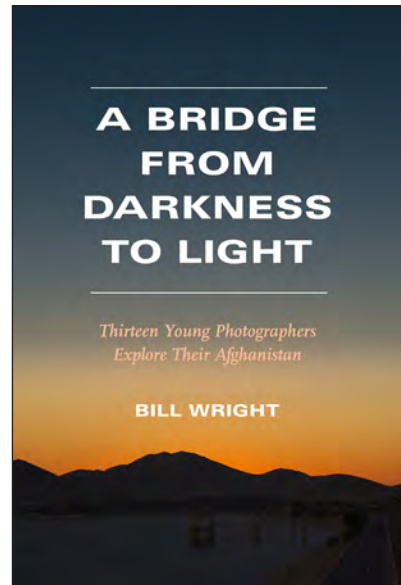
In 2006, Texas businessman, historian, and photographer Bill Wright was encouraged—though not officially invited—by the US Department of State to teach a class in digital photography to young Afghans in Kabul. The course was sponsored by an Afghan Non-Governmental Organization, ASCHIANA, which helps to support “working children and their families.” This book records Wright’s experiences and celebrates the creativity he saw flourish at the heart of a war zone.

For thirty-five years Wright owned and managed a petroleum marketing company. After selling his company to his employees in 1987, he has devoted his time to writing, photography, and public service for a number of nonprofit organizations including the National Council for the Humanities, the Texas Council of the Humanities, and most recently as a commissioner on the Texas Commission for the Arts.

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BILL WRIGHT’s photographs are in the collections of such institutions as Fort Worth’s Amon Carter Museum, Houston’s Museum of Fine Arts, the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, and the Smithsonian Institution. He is the author of nine books, including *Authentic Texas: People of the Big Bend* (with Marcia Daudistel) and from TCU Press *The Whole Damn Cheese: Maggie Smith, Border Legend*.

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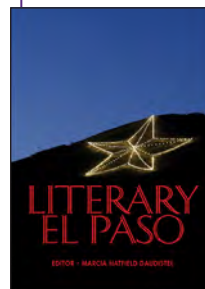


978-0-87565-794-3 paper \$29.95  
 6x9. 136 pp. 97 color photos.  
 Photography.  
 October

## RELATED INTEREST



**The Whole Damn Cheese**  
*Maggie Smith, Border Legend*  
**Bill Wright**  
 978-0-87565-704-2  
 paper \$24.00  
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**Literary El Paso**  
 Edited by Ms. Marcia  
 Hatfield Daudistel  
 978-0-87565-387-7  
 cloth \$29.50

## Feet of Clay

*Gus C. Garcia, Tragic Hero of the Civil Rights Movement*

**Millie Rose Diaz**

In the early 1950s, a Mexican American man named Gus has become a top Texas civil rights attorney—a climb that has been bedeviled by his competing obsessions with the law, *la raza*, the ladies, and Chivas Regal whisky.

On the day he learns his failed marriage has rendered him homeless, Gus hastily takes on a new client, a man accused of shooting and killing a man outside a bar in Edna. The case becomes one about equal representation when his associates uncover a disturbing fact: no minority or person of color has sat on a Jackson County jury in at least twenty-five years. Without funds, without political support, Gus and his team courageously pursue a demanding course that forces them to battle the system at every turn.

The case and Gus himself are targeted by Symmetry, an elitist, ultraconservative secret society bankrolled by Texas oil barons. A representation of the many extant southern white supremacist groups of the day, the group engages Gus's longtime nemesis to stop the progression of the case using schemes of persuasion and bribery.

Gus finds occasional solace when he begins a relationship with the world's first female bullfighter, but his unresolved past threatens his well-being. The story also introduces a young Mexican American girl who learns the complications of being shades darker than her sister and struggles to find her voice.

This is a fictional account based on true events.

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When MILLIE ROSE DIAZ learned her hometown was the beginning backdrop to the first Supreme Court case won by Mexican Americans, she found a purpose. Before that, she spent five years as sports and managing editor of the *Jackson County Herald-Tribune*, where she is now a part-time reporter. She lives in Edna and writes fiction accompanied by her exceptionally perfect black cat, My Love.

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978-0-87565-793-6 cloth \$29.95

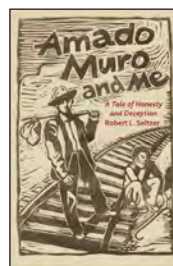
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Literary Novel.

November

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**Severo Perez**

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## Blood Ties

*How a Texas Prison Gang Became a Mexican Cartel Proxy*

**Joseph J. Kolb**

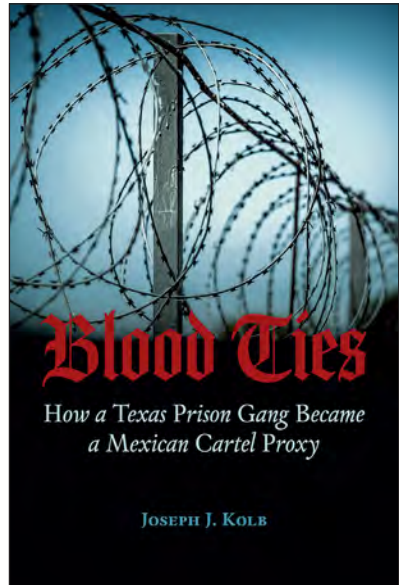
In the late 1980s and 1990s, street gang members from the impoverished Segundo Barrio in El Paso, Texas, united in the Texas prison system to create the Barrio Aztecas gang. They quickly rose to power in the Texas prison system and ultimately became a powerful transnational criminal organization.

Kolb describes the prison dynamic of predator and prey and the need for the prey to unify for protection against gangs such as the Texas Syndicate and Texas Mexican Mafia, also known as the Mexikanemi. The protective cocoon formed by this group soon morphed into a criminal enterprise that would be headquartered in the Coffield Unit of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, where the gang would engage in drug sales and violent crimes while behind bars. The skill sets they acquired served members well as they were released from custody and went on to exploit US immigration policies as well as friends and familial ties in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. There they established alliances with regional drug trafficking organizations such as Vicente Carrillo Fuentes (Juarez cartel), to whom they would serve as foot soldiers in the proxy war that would consume Ciudad Juárez and turn it into the “Murder Capital of the World.” *Blood Ties* describes the Azteca’s organizational structure and ranks, identifying characteristics such as tattoos and code words, and how the organization appropriated Aztec culture to form the basis for their identity. Some of the gang’s most horrific crimes are revealed here, and the author explores how Azteca’s leadership was eroded through the violation of the very tenets that served as the gang’s foundation.

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JOSEPH J. KOLB, MA, lives in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is a veteran detention officer in New Mexico and serves as the training coordinator and cofounder for the New Mexico Gang Investigators Association. He has designed and taught undergraduate and graduate classes in the Criminal Justice programs at Western New Mexico University and the University of New Mexico-Gallup campuses. He is the author of *Teen Violence in America: How Do We Save Our Children?*

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978-0-87565-788-2 paper \$24.95  
 978-0-87565-796-7 ebook  
 6x9. 152 pp. Index.  
 Criminal Justice. Borderlands Studies.  
 December

## RELATED INTEREST

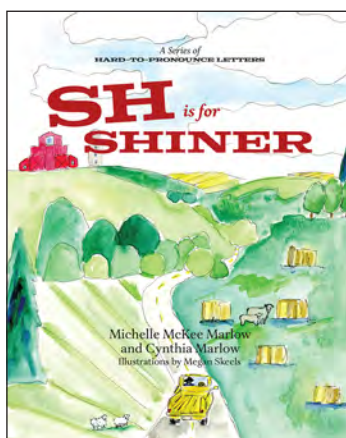


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**Mike Tapia**  
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**SH Is for Shiner**  
**Michelle McKee Marlow & Cynthia Marlow**

**Illustrations by Megan Skeels**

Come join Shelley and her grandfather, Pop, on a fun spring break adventure to Shiner, Texas. You never know who you might meet. . . . Shelley and her new furry friend could possibly teach you a trick or two to help pronounce that sometimes “sheepish” SH sound.

This is a book to read for pleasure and build confidence in children and students who are not alone facing difficulties with speech and language impairments. It comes with “secret tips” to tackle speech and language disorders and, most importantly, brings smiles along the way!

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MICHELLE MCKEE MARLOW’s passion for her private practice in Fort Worth has led her to work with hundreds of children from infancy to high school who have speech impairments. Her passion inspired her sister-in-law, CYNTHIA MARLOW, to earn a master’s degree in communication sciences and disorders. Internationally, Cynthia has been the head of special education programs, a dyslexia specialist, and a speech pathologist, and has led professional development seminars for several international schools in Europe and Asia.

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978-0-87565-790-5 hardcover \$21.95  
 8x10. 32 pp. 17 color illus.  
 Young Readers.  
 August



**Happy**  
*The True Story of a Stray Dog Who Became a Hero*  
**Kate McCormick**

**Illustrations by Tina Ochenante**

Who knew a street mutt could win the hearts of a whole town?

Happy, a scruffy stray dog, becomes a beloved hero when a fire threatens his new home. He will need all the help he can get in a town without a fire department or even fire hydrants. In this true story, neighbors work together to find a creative way to put out the fire, and Happy discovers that having a friend is the best reward.

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KATE MCCORMICK lives in Houston, less than a block from where Happy became an unlikely hero in 1931. She learned about Happy while researching her first book, *Images of America: Southside Place*. Beginning with an undated newspaper article, Kate tracked down the descendants of Happy’s owners who shared family photos and memories to help bring Happy’s story to life. The prepublished manuscript of *Happy* was named a finalist for the 2019 Joan Lowery Nixon Memorial Award. TINA OCHENANTE (formerly Tina Armenante) is a children’s book illustrator who studied at the Cambridge School of Art in the United Kingdom. She currently lives in San Francisco with her husband, son, and dog named Alfonso.

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978-0-87565-789-9 hardcover \$21.95  
 8x10. 44 pp. 36 color illustrations.  
 Young Readers. Texana.  
 September