

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 9: NUMBER 8.....AUGUST, 2014

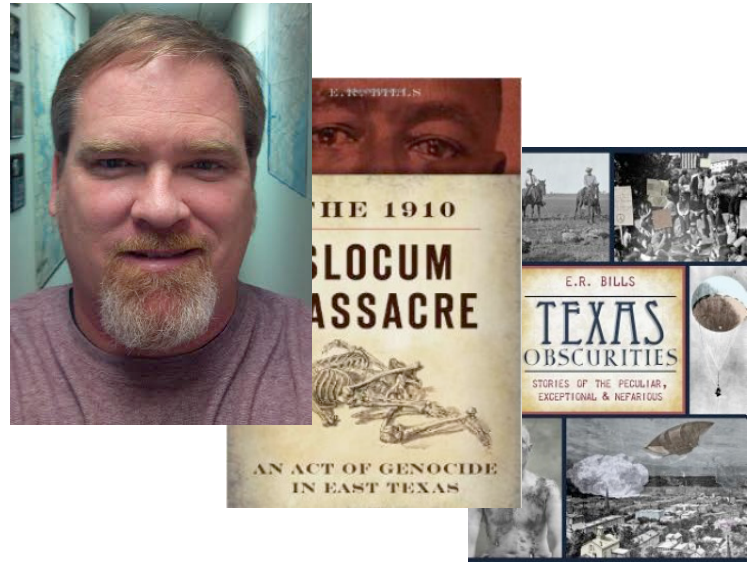
A Time and a Place

Two recent books of Texas popular history by E. R. Bills are the subjects of this month’s review. The reviewer happens to be the uncle of the author but wishes to assure all readers that there’s no bias in this review.

Featured This Month

Texas Obscurities: *Stories of the Peculiar, Exceptional & Nefarious* by E.R. Bills contains 24 chapters, each describing a remarkable and little known facet of Texas history. For example, two stories detail the brief tenure in 1918 of the first female sheriff in the U.S. and in 1925 of the nation’s first all-female state Supreme Court. Others document exceptionally destructive natural phenomena such as an overnight “heat burst” in north Texas and an earthquake in far west Texas. There are descriptions of the many UFO sightings of 1897 (rivaling Roswell) and of 1969 encounters with a Bigfoot monster. Of World War II research on using bats to deliver bombs and of the arrival of Japanese balloon bombs. Of a priest who really did get tarred and feathered. Of the 30-year fight over the estate of a wealthy eccentric with no clear heirs. Of events in the state involving Charles Lindbergh and Thomas Edison. And other historical tidbits.

Two of the more horrifying stories in that book deal with the massacre of practically an entire Hispanic town in West Texas by Texas Rangers and the slaughter of African-Americans by whites in the eastern part of the state. Bills was so disturbed by the latter case that he expanded his investigation to produce the second book, **The 1910 Slocum Massacre: *An Act of Genocide in East Texas*** (2014). In this book, he documents what may have been the largest mob killing of blacks by whites in U. S. history. The author grounds the event in the



racist legacy of the Civil War in Texas, a legacy that I myself experienced first-hand still thirty years later growing up in Fort Worth. He amplifies the horrors by describing in detail other atrocities such as the lynchings of African-Americans by other Anglo mobs. It is equally horrifying to read of the author’s difficulty in trying to uncover the facts of the case because of the desire to distort and obscure the event from the very beginning and a century-long unwillingness to acknowledge the massacre.

The second book is a difficult read not only because of the subject but also because the facts of the story are elusive and confounded by covert and overt deception. Nevertheless, both books are written with a clear and engaging style, and both are documented with photos, notes, and references and have comprehensive indices.

Introduction and review by Garland Bills

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New at the Library

Films on DVD

Amadeus ... Birth of a Nation ... Bringing up Baby
Duck Soup ... High Noon Agent ... Cody Banks 2
Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark
The Master ... Bobby Z ...Hard Target
High-Powered Action (*Dead Man; Equilibrium; Renaissance; Texas Rangers*)
Predator 2 ... Revolver ...The Big Lebowski
Taken ... Universal Soldier: Day of Reckoning
King Kong vs Godzilla ... Talladega Nights
Blue Collar Comedy Hour ...In the Valley of Elah
The Films of Michael Powell: *A Matter of Life and Death; Age of Consent*
High Crimes ... My Husband's Double Life ...
Retroactive ... The Perfect Husband
Frederico's Miracle Wall by National Hispanic Cultural Center
Frank Russell's Power Carving Fur, Feathers & Fins
The Belles of St. Trinian's ... Brighton Rock
Sioux City ... 12 Years a Slave ... Enough Said
Captain Phillips ... The Servant

Music CD

A Wonderful World by Tony Bennett and K.D. Lang

Mystery

Taboo by Casey Hill
A Dangerous Talent by Charlotte & Aaron Elkins
Cliff Walk by Bruce DeSilva
Privileged to Kill by Steven F. Havill
A Discount for Death by Steven F. Havill
Before She Dies by Steven F. Havill
Bag Limit by Steven F. Havill
Hidden by Casey Hill
A Man Without Breath by Phillip Kerr
The New York Trilogy by Paul Auster
Rogue Island by Bruce DeSilva
Sniper's Honor by Stephen Hunter
The Third Bullet by Stephen Hunter
One Perfect Shot by Steven F. Havill

Nonfiction

Out of this World: *New Mexico's Contributions to Space Travel* by Loretta Hall
Max Evans & a Few Friends: *The 90th Birthday Book* edited by Ollie Reed Jr., Slim Randles, & Ruth E. Francis
Mastering Spanish (book and 11 CDs)
The Garner Files by James Garner and Jon Winokur

Classics

Tropic of Cancer by Henry Miller

Fiction

Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks
Lighthouse Bay by Kimberly Freeman
The Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh
Blasphemy by Douglas Preston
Notes from the Other Side of the Mountain by J. Allen Whitt
Sunset Park by Paul Auster
Back Lands by Michael McGarrity

Notes from the Library Board

Congratulations to Joanie Nelson, winner of the iPad raffle, and thanks to all who participated!

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed
Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm
Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, August 20
Hillsboro: 1:00 - 2:00 pm Kingston: 2:30-3:30 pm