TOLA Regional Titles
Spring 2015

Texas
Oklahoma
Louisiana
Arkansas
Women of the Frontier
16 Tales of Trailblazing Homesteaders, Entrepreneurs, and Rabble-Rousers
Brandon Marie Miller

Summary
Winner of:
2014 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People
Nominated for:
2014 YALSA Nonfiction Award
Using journal entries, letters home, and song lyrics, the women of the West speak for themselves in these tales of courage, enduring spirit, and adventure. Women such as Amelia Stewart Knight traveling on the Oregon Trail, homesteader Miriam Colt, entrepreneur Clara Brown, army wife Frances Grummond, actress Adah Isaacs Menken, naturalist Martha Maxwell, missionary Narcissa Whitman, and political activist Mary Lease are introduced to readers through their harrowing stories of journeying across the plains and mountains to unknown land. Recounting the impact pioneers had on those who were already living in the region as well as how they adapted to their new lives and the rugged, often dangerous landscape, this exploration also offers resources for further study and reveals how these influential women tamed the Wild West.

Contributor Bio
Brandon Marie Miller is the author of Benjamin Franklin, American Genius; George Washington for Kids; and Thomas Jefferson for Kids. She has received a dozen national awards for her writing. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

On the Wild West
Mark Twain

Summary
The latest in Hesperus's On series comes from master travel writer Mark Twain and concentrates on his journey through the Wild West

From 1861 to 1867, a young Mark Twain traveled through the Wild West. Following an abortive foray into a career as a Confederate Cavalryman he opted instead to head off on a stagecoach road trip with his brother Orion, who had just been appointed Secretary of Nevada Territory. Twain sets out on an epic voyage from Missouri to Sacramento. He will visit Salt Lake City, witness the beginning of the real estate boom, and try his hand at silver mining in Nevada. Traveling in turn by boat, train, and coach, through mountains and deserts, he comes across Native Americans, visits a Mormon village, and becomes stranded in a snowstorm. Discovering a land in the grasp of a boom and bust mentality, Twain is caught up in the lust for instant wealth which remains always tantalizingly close. Priceless anecdotes detail the amusing mishaps and bad judgement calls that ensure that the author's riches are kept at arm's length. Even at this early stage of his budding caree...

Contributor Bio
Mark Twain (1835-1910) was an American humorist, satirist, social critic, lecturer, and author of numerous classics, including The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.
Westward Ho!
An Activity Guide to the Wild West
Laurie Carlson

Summary
Capturing the unique character and history of the West, this activity book provides a number of memorable journeys, including joining Lewis and Clark on an expedition, journeying into the woods with fur traders, or riding a wagon train to the Oregon. Young explorers will experience the excitement of the West with activities such as sewing a sunbonnet, panning for gold, cooking flapjacks, singing cowboy songs, and more. Helpful illustrations that detail and explain the steps of each project are also included.

Contributor Bio
Laurie Carlson is the author of Colonial Kids, More Than Moccasins, Green Thumbs, and Kids Camp! She has taught preschool, primary grades, and children's art classes. She lives in Cheney, Washington.

Native American History for Kids
With 21 Activities
Karen Bush Gibson

Summary
As the first Americans, hundreds of indigenous bands and nations already lived in North America when European explorers first set out to conquer an inhabited land. This book captures the early history of these complex societies and their 500-year struggle to survive against all odds from war, displacement, broken treaties, and boarding schools. Not only a history of tribal nations, Native American History for Kids also includes profiles of famous Native Americans and their many contributions, from early leaders to superstar athlete Jim Thorpe, dancer Maria Tallchief, astronaut John Herrington, author Sherman Alexie, actor Wes Studi, and more.

Readers will also learn about Indian culture through hands-on activities, such as planting a Three Sisters garden (corn, squash, and beans), making beef jerky in a low-temperature oven, weaving a basket out of folded newspaper strips, deciphering a World War II Navajo Code Talker message, and playing Ball-and-Triangle, a game popular with Penobscot children. And before they are finished, readers will be inspired to know that the his...

Contributor Bio
Karen Bush Gibson is the author of eight books on Native American culture, including The Arapaho, The Pawnee, The Chickasaw, and Plank Houses.
A Kid's Guide to Latino History
More than 50 Activities
Valerie Petrillo

Summary
A Kid's Guide to Latino History features more than 50 hands-on activities, games, and crafts that explore the diversity of Latino culture and teach children about the people, experiences, and events that have shaped Hispanic American history.

Kids can:

* Fill Mexican *cascarones* for Easter
* Learn to dance the *merengue* from the Dominican Republic
* Write a short story using "magical realism" from Columbia
* Build Afro-Cuban Bongos
* Create a *vejigante* mask from Puerto Rico
* Make Guatemalan worry dolls
* Play *Loteria*, or Mexican bingo, and learn a little Spanish
* And much more

Did you know that the first immigrants to live in America were not the English settlers in Jamestown or the Pilgrims in Plymouth, but the Spanish? They built the first permanent American settlement in St. Augustine, Florida, in 1565. The long and colorful history of Latinos in America comes alive through learning about the missions and early settlements in Florida, New Mexico, Arizona, and California; exploring the Santa Fe Trail; discovering how the Mexican-American War res...

Art of Celebration Southwest
Inspiration and Ideas from Top Event Professionals

Summary
From planners, caterers, and entertainers to floral designers, ice sculptors, and lighting gurus, these compendiums share the passions and motivations of the event industry’s most popular specialists—and even a few of their best-kept secrets to executing unforgettable occasions. Each affair is accompanied by lighthearted editorial, providing a look behind the scenes at birthdays, corporate functions, religious milestones, and charity galas. With beautiful, lavish photographs, these collections invite readers to walk the red carpet and enjoy the splendor of elite events thrown by world leaders, royalty, celebrities, and other members of high society.

From private gatherings steeped in authentic Southwest flavor to corporate functions that are wonderfully contemporary, this striking photograph collection profiles some of the most exquisite events in the region as well as the people and organizations that make them happen.

Contributor Bio
Panache Partners, LLC, is a publishing company based in Dallas, Texas, that specializes in developing upscale coffee-table books on luxury lifestyle subjects including architecture, interior design, golf, wine, art, event planning, and travel.
The Grit Cookbook
World-Wise, Down-Home Recipes
Jessica Greene, Ted Hafer

Summary
The Grit, located in the quintessential boho town of Athens, Georgia, is known far and wide as the touring musicians' restaurant of choice. This classic cookbook features 150 of The Grit's most requested recipes, including 20 new recipes to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this famous establishment. True to its Southern roots, this hip vegetarian eatery combines soul-food sensibility with meatless cuisine, and while there are plenty of Italian, Indian, Mexican, and Middle Eastern favorites to satisfy the well-traveled vegetarian, the heart of this cuisine maintains the down-home, soul-food feeling of simple foods and classic combinations that are guaranteed to please.

Contributor Bio
Jessica Greene and Ted Hafer are the owner-operators of the beloved vegetarian restaurant The Grit.

Zane Grey
Zane Grey

Summary
A classic collection of three of the best from the absolute master of the Western novel

Riders of the Purple Sage, Grey's best-known bestseller, is a thrilling saga set on the Utah-Arizona border country that features a despicable villain and a straight-shootin' hero in a tale of passion, rivalry, and revenge. In The Trail Driver, the heroine is disguised as a boy while a cast of hard-bitten, weather-beaten characters drive 4,000 cattle north out of Texas, braving the weather, marauding outlaws, and hostile Indians along the way. Rangers of the Lone Star features Texas Ranger Russ Sittell working undercover on a ranch to break a rustling ring, a dangerous assignment made all the more hazardous by the fact that the ranch owner is the local mayor. These three epic tales represent a wonderful way for Western fans familiar with Zane Grey's work to drift back into his stories of life on the range but are equally attractive for newcomers who would like to sample a little of the wild west.

Contributor Bio
Although he was 31 years old before his first book was published in 1903, Zane Grey's writing style and his depiction of the old "wild" west led to him becoming one of the highest-earning authors of popular literature of his time.
100 Things Arkansas Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die
Rick Schaeffer, Quinn Grovey

Summary
From famed moments such as the Razorbacks winning the 1994 NCAA Tournament to lesser known trivia, including which uniform configuration is considered a curse or knowing the animal that was the school's original mascot, *100 Things Arkansas Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die* reveals the most critical moments and important facts about Arkansas football and basketball. With details on past and present players, coaches, and teams that are part of the university's storied history, this book contains everything Hogs fans should know, see, and do in their lifetime and encapsulates what being a Razorbacks fan is all about.

Contributor Bio
**Rick Schaeffer** was the sports information director with the University of Arkansas athletic department for 24 years and the radio color commentator for Razorbacks football for a decade. He is the founder of Champions for Kids, a nonprofit organization that provides support, training, and resources for youth organizations in Arkansas. **Quinn Grovey** was the starting quarterback at Arkansas from 1987 to 1989, leading the Razorbacks to Southwest Conference Championships in 1988 and 1989. They both live in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

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Boom Town
How Wal-Mart Transformed an All-American Town Into an International Community
Marjorie Rosen

Summary
In 1950, Sam Walton, founder of the Wal-Mart empire, arrived in the Bible Belt town of Bentonville, Arkansas, and discovered that the nondescript Ozarks backwater--population 2,900 white Christians--suited him just fine. Today, six decades later, Walton's legacy has left its mark. The Bentonville area is headquarters to not only Wal-Mart but also Tyson Foods and J. B. Hunt. The town's population has grown to around 30,000, and the region is now home to blacks, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Marshall Islanders, and the fastest-growing Latino population in the country.

In *Boom Town: How Wal-Mart Transformed an All-American Town into an International Community*, veteran journalist Marjorie Rosen explores the ever-shifting social, political, and cultural character of the United States through the microcosm that is Northwest Arkansas and the personal stories of its people. Rosen talks with a Palestinian immigrant who rose from penniless dishwasher to multimillionaire contractor--and dedicated himself to building a local Jewish community's first synagogue. A black executive hired to diversify Wal-...

Contributor Bio
**Marjorie Rosen** is an associate professor of journalism at Lehman College-CUNY. Her books include *Popcorn Venus: Women, Movies & the American Dream* and *What Nigel Knew and Mia & Woody: Love and Betrayal*. A former senior writer at *People* and editor at the *New York Times Magazine*, she has contributed to *Glamour, Good Housekeeping*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Ms.*
**Divorce in Louisiana**

*The Legal Process, Your Rights, and What to Expect*

Betsy A. Fischer

**Summary**

Providing accurate and objective information to help make the right decisions during a divorce in Louisiana, this guide provides answers to 360 queries such as *What is the mediation process in Louisiana and is it required? How quickly can one get a divorce? Who decides who gets the cars, the pets, and the house? What actions might influence child custody? How are bills divided and paid during the divorce? How much will a divorce cost? and Will a spouse have to pay some or all attorney fees?* Structured in a question-and-answer format, this divorce handbook provides clear and concise responses to help build confidence and give the peace of mind needed to meet the challenges of a divorce proceeding.

**Contributor Bio**

*Betsy A. Fischer, Esq.*, is a lawyer and a member of the Collaborative Professionals Group of Southeast Louisiana, the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals, the Jefferson Parish Family Law Association, and the Jefferson and Louisiana State Bar Associations. She lives in Metairie, Louisiana.

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**Meriwether Lewis**

*The Assassination of an American Hero and the Silver Mines of Mexico*

Kira Gale

**Summary**

This new full-length biography of Meriwether Lewis is presented within the context of the turbulent times of the early American Republic. The author discusses intrigues to seize the Floridas and Louisiana from Spain with the help of France or Britain, and makes the case for General James Wilkinson assassinating General Anthony Wayne to become the commanding general of the U.S. Army. She proposes that the deadlock in the presidential election of 1800 between Aaron Burr and Thomas Jefferson was caused by a British faction of Federalists who planned to invade Louisiana and Mexico if Burr were elected president. Three parts of the conspiracy are identified: a secret military base on the Ohio, Cantonment Wilkinsonville, where 700 U.S. Army troops were stationed; the Philip Nolan filibuster into Texas; and British naval support. After Jefferson’s election, Lewis lived in the White House as his confidential aide. In 1803, he left the White House as the leader of an elite army unit to reinforce America’s claim to the Pacific Northwest. When he returned, Jefferson appointed him governor of Lo...

**Contributor Bio**

*Kira Gale* is the author of *Lewis and Clark Road Trips* and coauthor of *The Death of Meriwether Lewis: A Historic Crime Scene Investigation*. She received the Meritorious Achievement Award of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation in 2007. She lives in Omaha, Nebraska.
Dream Songs Night Songs from Mali to Louisiana
Patrick Lacoursière, Sylvie Bourbonnière

Summary
Beautifully recorded lullabies from around the world are sung in the language of origin along with an illustrated bedtime story-in English, Spanish, and French-about an imaginary journey to unknown lands. Performers Sylva Balassanian, Mary Fujiwara Burke, Juan Jose Carranza, Hart-Rouge, H'sao, Paul Kunigis, and Nathalie Picard share their culture in offering lovely, warm lead vocals and harmonies, supported by a highly skilled group of musicians playing more than 30 different instruments. The earth-toned, dreamlike illustrations reflect both the subject and country of origin of each song.

Contributor Bio
Patrick Lacoursière is a former actor, producer, and journalist in Western Canada, and the author of the award-winning collection Dream Songs Night Songs. He lives in Montreal, Quebec. Sylvie Bourbonnière is an illustrator whose works have been featured in the Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, and People magazine. She has also illustrated several children's books, including Contes d' Afrique and Tales from the Isle of Spice. She lives in Montreal, Quebec.

Lost New Orleans
Richard Campanella

Summary
A nostalgic journey back in time to visit the lost sites of New Orleans in all their grandeur

Organized chronologically, starting with the earliest losses and ending with the latest, this book features much-loved New Orleans institutions that failed to stand the test of time, such as grand buildings erected in the Victorian era that were too costly to be refurbished, or movie theaters that the age of television made redundant are featured. Alongside the city's iconic and much-missed buildings, it also looks at the industries that have declined or left town. More than 60 losses from 1900 up to the present day include the Old French Opera House; New Orleans Cotton Exchange; Old Masonic Temple; Poydras Market; Chess, Checkers, and Whist Club; Charity Hospital; Olivier Plantation House; Washington Artillery Hall; Union Railroad Depot; New Orleans Public Library; Solaris Delicatessen; Sugar and Rice Exchange; Godchaux's; Tulane Stadium; Rivergate Exhibition Hall; Lower Ninth Ward; and Le Beau House.

Contributor Bio
Richard Campanella is a geographer with the Tulane University School of Orleans and the author of seven critically acclaimed books about New Orleans, including Bourbon Street: A History, Lincoln in New Orleans, Bienville's Dilemma, and Geographies of New Orleans. The only two-time winner of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities Book of the Year Award, Campanella has also received the Williams Prize for Louisiana History, the Tulane Mortar Board Award for Excellence in Teaching, the Hannah Arendt Prize for Scholarship in the Public Interest, and the Monroe Fellowship from the Tulane's New Orleans Center for the Gulf South. He lives in New Orleans.
The World That Made New Orleans
From Spanish Silver to Congo Square
Ned Sublette

Summary
Named one of the Top 10 Books of 2008 by The Times-Picayune.
Winner of the 2009 Humanities Book of the Year award from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.
Awarded the New Orleans Gulf South Booksellers Association Book of the Year Award for 2008.
New Orleans is the most elusive of American cities. The product of the centuries-long struggle among three mighty empires—France, Spain, and England—and among their respective American colonies and enslaved African peoples, it has always seemed like a foreign port to most Americans, baffled as they are by its complex cultural inheritance.

The World That Made New Orleans offers a new perspective on this insufficiently understood city by telling the remarkable story of New Orleans’s first century—a tale of imperial war, religious conflict, the search for treasure, the spread of slavery, the Cuban connection, the cruel aristocracy of sugar, and the very different revolutions that created the United States and Haiti. It demonstrates that New Orleans already had its own distinct personality at the time of Louisiana’s statehood ...

Contributor Bio
Ned Sublette is the author of Cuba and Its Music: From the First Drums to the Mambo. Cofounder of the record label Qbadisc, he coproduced the public radio program Afropop Worldwide for seven years.

French Quarter Fiction
The Newest Stories of America’s Oldest Bohemia
Joshua Clark, James Nolan

Summary
Branching across every genre, from mystery and romance to flash fiction and prose poetry, this anthology of works by preeminent writers on the heart of New Orleans features a previously unpublished story by Tennessee Williams, as well as stories by Richard Ford, Ellen Gilchrist, Robert Olen Butler, Andrei Codrescu, Barry Gifford, Poppy Z. Brite, Julie Smith, John Biguenet, Nancy Lemann, and Valerie Martin, among others. The characters in these works find themselves everywhere from Sarajevo on the eve of the First World War to Algiers Point just across the Mississippi River, but their stories are all anchored in the French Quarter. They wander from the 18th-century New World to a rooftop view of Bourbon Street on the cusp of the third millennium. Interspersed with the history of the city, these stories penetrate the standard clichés and reflect the true sense of the French Quarter—its sensuality, mystery, the life behind its walls—and lift the veils of privacy altogether. Whether surrealism or satire, these exceptional stories are beautiful, poignant, tragic, and comic.

Contributor Bio
Joshua Clark is a fiction and travel writer, editor, photographer, and filmmaker. He lives in New Orleans, Louisiana.
Black Flags and Windmills
Hope, Anarchy, and the Common Ground Collective
scott crow, Kathleen Cleaver

Summary
Tracing a life of radical activism and the emergence of a grassroots organization in the face of disaster, this chronicle describes scott crow's headlong rush into the political storm surrounding the catastrophic failure of the levee in New Orleans in 2005 and the subsequent failure of state and local government agencies in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. It recounts crow's efforts with others in the community to found Common Ground Collective, a grassroots relief organization that built medical clinics, set up food and water distribution, and created community gardens when local government agencies, FEMA, and the Red Cross were absent or ineffective. The members also stood alongside the beleaguered residents of New Orleans in resisting home demolitions, white militias, police brutality, and FEMA incompetence. This vivid, personal account maps the intersection of radical ideology with pragmatic action and chronicles a community’s efforts to translate ideals into tangible results. This expanded second edition includes up-to-date interviews and discussions between crow and some of today...

Contributor Bio
scott crow is an anarchist activist, a community organizer, a writer, and the founder of social justice groups and education projects throughout Texas and the south, including Common Ground Collective, Dirty South Earth First!, the North Texas Coalition for a Just Peace, Radical Encuentro Camp, and UPROAR (United People Resisting Oppression and Racism). He has also trained and organized for many grassroots organizations, including ACORN, Forest Ethics, Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, and the Ruckus Society, and is currently collaborating on a number of sustainable cooperative projects. He lives in Austin, Texas. Kathleen Cleaver is a senior lecturer in law at Emory University and was the spokesperson and first female member of the Black Panther Party’s decision-making body. She is the author of Liberation, Imagination, and the Black Panther Party and We Want Freedom. She lives in Atlanta.

The Year Before the Flood
A Story of New Orleans
Ned Sublette

Summary
With a style the Los Angeles Times calls as "vivid and fast-moving as the music he loves," Ned Sublette's powerful new book drives the reader through the potholed, sinking streets of the United States's least-typical city.

In this eagerly awaited follow-up to The World That Made New Orleans, Sublette's award-winning history of the Crescent City's colonial years, he traces an arc of his own experience, from the white supremacy of segregated 1950s Louisiana through the funky year of 2004-2005--the last year New Orleans was whole. By turns irreverent, joyous, darkly comic, passionate, and polemical, The Year Before the Flood juxtaposes the city's crowded calendar of parties, festivals, and parades with the murderousness of its poverty and its legacy of racism. Along the way, Sublette opens up windows of American history that illuminate the present: the trajectory of Mardi Gras from pre-Civil War days, the falsification of Southern history in movies, the city's importance to early rock and roll, the complicated story of its housing projects, the uniqueness of its hip-hop scene, and th...

Contributor Bio
Ned Sublette is the author of The World That Made New Orleans: From Spanish Silver to Congo Square and Cuba and Its Music: From the First Drums to the Mambo. Cofounder of the record label Qbadisc, he coproduced the public radio program Afropop Worldwide for seven years.
Katrina's Sandcastles
New Hope From The Ruins of New Orleans Schools
Kaycee Eckhardt

Summary
“The first thing I need you to know is that becoming a teacher was the most important thing that ever happened to me.” With these words, Kaycee Eckhardt begins a journey both harrowing and hopeful: the story of becoming an effective teacher, and building a new school, in Post-Katrina New Orleans. Beginning as a first year teacher, barely out of six weeks of training, the book follows her path from the New Orleans neighborhoods of Holy grove, Algiers, Treme, and the 9th Ward. She takes us through four different schools, a destroyed bicycle, a half dead pit bull, a burlesque-dancer, spit and a concussion, broken light bulbs, a phonics lesson, and planting the seeds of literacy in the most dire of circumstances. With affection and brutal honesty, she relates the hilarity and tragedy of several children, the belief in all things possible, and finally, the most difficult decision of all. Filled with heartbreaking stories, teacher survival strategies, and an excess of heart, Katrina’s Sandcastles is a story of sacrifice and struggle, belief and failure, despair and ultimate redemption in ...

Contributor Bio
Kaycee Eckhardt created the reading program for innovative New Orleans charter school Sci Academy where students’ reading levels improved by an average of over 3.5 years. Eckhardt was the Louisiana Charter Teacher of the Year in 2009. She has gone on to do national education, Common Core advocacy, and teaches literacy development. She was interviewed by Brian Williams on NBC’s Teacher Town Hall and the subject of the viral documentaries School Works: The Committed Teacher and America Achieves: Symbolism in the Lottery. She continues to work in education policy and lectures to motivate and inspire first year teachers. She lives in New Orleans.

The Terrible Axe-Man of New Orleans
Rick Geary

Summary
Nights of terror! A city awash in blood! New Orleans right after the First World War. The party returns to the Big Easy but someone looks to spoil it. Grocers are being murdered in the dead of night by someone grabbing their axe and hacking them right in their own cushy beds! The pattern for each murder is the same: a piece of the door is removed for entry, the axe is borrowed on the property, and the assailant aims straight for the head! Why? How could he fit through that piece in the door? The man is never found for sure but speculations abound which Geary presents with his usual gusto!

Contributor Bio
An award-winning cartoonist and illustrator, Rick Geary has worked for Marvel Entertainment Group, DC Comics, Dark Horse Comics, and Heavy Metal, and has contributed to National Lampoon and The New York Times Book Review.
Dr. Mary's Monkey
How the Unsolved Murder of a Doctor, a Secret Laboratory in New Orleans and Cancer-Causing Monkey Viruses Are Linked to Lee Harvey Oswald, the JFK Assassination and Emerging Global Epidemics
Edward T. Haslam, Jim Marrs

Summary
This new updated edition is not only hard cover for long life, but it contains an additional 25 pages of revelations from the author including documents from the FBI, CIA, CDC, and NOPD, plus the actual crime scene photos of the Mary Sherman murder. You’ll see why we say this is the "Hottest cold case in America." The 1964 murder of a nationally known cancer researcher sets the stage for this gripping exposé of medical professionals enmeshed in covert government operations over the course of three decades. Following a trail of police records, FBI files, cancer statistics, and medical journals, this revealing book presents evidence of a web of medical secret-keeping that began with the handling of evidence in the JFK assassination and continued apace, sweeping doctors into cover-ups of cancer outbreaks, contaminated polio vaccine, the arrival of the AIDS virus, and biological weapon research using infected monkeys.

Contributor Bio
Edward T. Haslam was raised in New Orleans and is a graduate of Tulane University. His advertising career took him to Detroit where he managed advertising for some of America's largest corporations. His website is: DoctorMarysMonkey.com. The Foreword is by Jim Marrs, author of Crossfire: The Plot that Killed Kennedy, a book used by Oliver Stone in the making of his JFK movie. He is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists and Investigative Reporters & Editors and is a former president of the Press Club of Fort Worth.

I Love Oklahoma/I Hate Texas
Jake Trotter

Summary
Delving into a tug-of-war that has existed since 1900, this book digs deep into the age-old clash between the Oklahoma Sooners and the Texas Longhorns, guaranteed to make anyone the most informed fan on their bouts. The first guide approaching the duel from a pro-Oklahoma perspective, this Chronicle documents how the Sooners earned 47 straight wins and more national championships than any other team in its conference, including their nemesis Texas. Loaded with trivia, hilarious history, and inside scoops, this compilation also features fantastic stories behind the legendary names of Bud Wilkinson, Darrell Royal, Mack Brown, Lee Roy Selmon, and more. Demonstrating that there is no fine line between love and hate, this entertaining handbook tackles a competition as wide as the Red River itself.

Contributor Bio
Jake Trotter is a writer for ESPN.com's SoonerNation, covering Oklahoma football. He previously covered the Sooners for the Oklahoman. He lives in Edmond, Oklahoma.
Echoes of Oklahoma Sooners Football
The Greatest Stories Ever Told
Steve Owens

Summary
With a proud tradition dating back to 1895, a worldwide following of rabid, devoted fans, and an ever-growing list of national championships, Oklahoma Sooners football is one of the most elite programs in collegiate sports. Throughout the years, the players who have worn the familiar red helmet and jerseys, the coaches who have led them into battle, and the games in which they participated have shaped the sport that millions of fans enjoy today. Oklahoma won its first conference championship in 1915 and nabbed its 40th and most recent one in 2006 on its way to yet another BCS bowl game. The Sooners have won seven national championships—1950, 1953, and 1956 under the legendary Bud Wilkinson, 1974, 1975, and 1985 under Barry Switzer, and 2000 under current coach Bob Stoops—who has a career won-lost record of 86-19. The list of great players who have played for Oklahoma is long and storied, and includes Heisman Trophy winners Billy Vessels, Steve Owens, Billy Sims, and Jason White. Other OU greats include Claude Reeds, Jack Mitchell, Jack Mildren, Greg Pruitt, Thomas Lott, Brian Boswort...

Contributor Bio
Steve Owens
is a former football player for the University of Oklahoma and a former running back in the NFL. He is the recipient of the 1969 Heisman Trophy and is an All-American honoree.

100 Things Oklahoma Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die
Steve Richardson

Summary
With pep talks, records, and Sooners lore, this lively, detailed book explores the personalities, events, and facts every Oklahoma fan should know. It contains crucial information such as important dates, player nicknames, memorable moments, and outstanding achievements by singular players. This guide to all things Oklahoma covers each position's best players in Sooners history, the "game of the century," and Sooner Schooner's first appearance. Now updated through the 2013 season, this book includes additional chapters covering developments of the last few seasons, such as the 2010 draft which saw the most players taken from one school in the first four picks of the draft and Oklahoma's January 2014 win over Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

Contributor Bio
Steve Richardson
is the executive director of the Football Writers Association of America and a freelance writer who has been covering college sports since the late 1970s. He is a former writer for the Dallas Morning News and Kansas City Star, is a correspondent for Sports Illustrated, and has written freelance articles for numerous publications, including USA Today. He is the author of A Century of Sports, Cotton Bowl History Vault, Then Osborne Said to Rozier, Then Pinkel Said to Smith, and University of Texas Football Vault. He lives in Dallas, Texas.
**T Is for Texas**
Maria Kernahan, Michael Schafbuch

**Summary**
Locals and visitors alike will appreciate the beautiful artwork of Texas’s most popular icons.

There’s no place like the Lone Star State and *T is for Texas* celebrates everything that makes Texas stand apart from the rest. Colorful graphics and whimsical rhymes take readers through a tour of the great places and icons of Texas. From armadillos to the Texas Zoo, this alphabetical tour includes the best of Texas, including Friday night lights, Texas longhorns, ten-gallon hats, and the best BBQ on earth. Whether on a coffee table or on the nightstand, this large-format book is sure to make any resident or visitor smile.

**Contributor Bio**
Maria Kernahan is the author of *A Is for Aspen, B Is for Boston,* and *C Is for Chicago,* as well as fiction for adults. She is a former copywriter for J. Walter Thompson. She lives in Winnetka, Illinois. Michael Schafbuch is an artist and illustrator who has worked on other books by Dry Climate Studios, including *A Is for Aspen, B Is for Boston,* and *C Is for Chicago.* He lives in Seattle.

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**Texas BBQ**
Meat, Smoke & Love
Jonas Cramby

**Summary**
A step-by-step guide to achieving the perfect BBQ cooking technique, Texas-style, along with all the sides and accompaniments you will ever need.

There is only one state which lives up to the epithet "the best BBQ in the world," and that is Texas. But what is BBQ? Traditional grilling means cooking a piece of meat as quickly as possible with a high heat, but BBQ is exactly the opposite—this is slow cooking at low temperatures. The meat doesn't dry up, but remains super juicy and slow cooking renders even cheap and chewy cuts tender and tasty. When the heat source is charcoal, wood shavings, or wood, you automatically get an unbeatable spice in the form of perfumed smoke. In *Texas BBQ* you will get to learn all these techniques. It is a simple step-by-step guide to making the perfect Texas-style BBQ at home, whether you have an ordinary outdoor grill or a professional smoker. Learn about what sort of wood is suited to a particular meat, exact grilling times, and smoking temperatures. But first and foremost, you will discover how to achieve a perfect, tender, juicy, and smoked "pulled po...
**Her Texas**  
*Story, Image, Poem & Song*  
Donna Walker-Nixon, Cassy Burleson, Rachel Crawford...

**Summary**  
Multicultural, multiethnic, and multidisciplinary, *Her Texas* includes stories, essays, memoirs, poetry, song lyrics, paintings, and photographs by 60 Texas women. Texas, once a country unto itself, has engendered myths and legends that rival the magnetic force of national identity. At first, Texas writers looked toward the men who embodied the larger-than-life stories of cowboys and Indians, pioneers and outlaws, cattle barons and oil kings. Although the female writers, poets, songwriters, artists, and photographers of this collection know this heritage, they also illuminate a Texas that is large enough in landscape, history, and spirit to include a multitude of experiences and identities. Discover women who write with intelligence, humor, pain, and joy of experiences rooted in the far-flung landscapes and cityscapes of Texas, and who enlarge the definition of “Texan” to include multifaceted lives lived in fertile intersections where myths and realities meet: a teenage mother from San Antonio compares her dreams with her real life; a Tejana recalls her downtown childhood in terms of...

**Contributor Bio**  
**Donna Walker-Nixon**, a recipient of the Minnie Stevens Piper Award, is the founding editor of *Windhover*: A Journal of Christian Literature and the cofounding editor of *Langdon Review of the Arts in Texas*. She is the author of the novel *Canaan’s Oothoon*. Her short story “Tented Amusements” was published in the *Journal of Texas Women Writers*, and her fiction has appeared in various journals, and she is a recipient of the Beall Poetry Festival’s Poetry in the Arts Award. She lives in Temple, Texas. **Cassy Burleson** is a professor of English at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. **Rachel Crawford** has worked as a high school English teacher, a university English professor, an editor, and a writer. Her poetry has appeared in various journals, and she is a recipient of the Beall Poetry Festival’s Poetry in the Arts Award. They both live in Lorena, Texas. **Ashley Palmer** teaches sociology, sociology of religion, and gender studies courses at Baylor University, where she is a former assistant director of the Academy for Teaching and Learning. Her work has been published in the *Review of...*

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**Beautiful Weddings of Texas**  
Jolie Carpenter

**Summary**  
*Beautiful Weddings of Texas* showcases 200 of the best wedding resources throughout the state, including those based in major metropolitan regions as well as those located in scenic, small towns. Professional wedding planners, designers, caterers, cake designers, fashion and beauty consultants, invitation artists, photographers, videographers, rental and logistics experts, and venue proprietors are profiled alongside inspiring photographs of their most exquisite Texas weddings. The fine coffee-table book celebrates the scenic and stylistic variety of Texas for destination dream weddings of all kinds. Regional chapters are introduced by the state’s leading event professionals, including Pattie Beebe, Donnie Brown, Therese Cole Hubbs, Julie Eastman, David Garcia, and Valerie Miller.

**Contributor Bio**  
**Jolie Carpenter** is the author of *Beautiful Bedrooms and Baths of Texas*, *Beautiful Homes of Texas*, *Luxury Homes of Texas*, *Spectacular Outdoor Living of Texas*, and *Spectacular Weddings of Texas*. She lives in Plano, Texas.
Oddball Texas
A Guide to Some Really Strange Places
Jerome Pohlen

Summary
This amusing travel guide to the Lone Star State doesn't waste travelers' time telling them where to find antiques in the Hill Country, take breathtaking hikes through Big Bend, or gaze upon the Alamo. Instead, it guides television fans to a modern replica of the Munsters's mansion, leads the nonsqueamish to the world's only Cockroach Hall of Fame, and points the curious towards a small town filled with hippo statues. Among other things, Texas is home to Goliath-sized roadside attractions, and directions are provided on how to reach the World's Largest Six-Shooter, World's Largest Rattlesnake, and World's Largest Wooden Nickel. The accompanying photographs and maps instruct visitors on how to get to these and other extraordinary spots, including the Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, the Celebrity Shoe Museum, Alley Oop's Fantasyland, and the Birthplace of Fritos. A dose of wacky Texas history is also included with answers to questions such as Did a UFO really crash into a windmill northwest of Fort Worth in 1897? and What does an Abilene Kinko's have to do with the early retirement of...

Contributor Bio
Jerome Pohlen is the author of the Oddball series and a regular travel commentator for 848 on WBEZ, the Chicago affiliate of National Public Radio. He is a recent recipient of the Illinois Associated Press Broadcasters Award for Best Essay.

City by Design: Texas
An Architectural Perspective of the Leading Cities in Texas

Summary
Showcasing prominent commercial structures and the talented architects who brought them to life, these pictorial histories contain outstanding photography of some of the leading cities in the United States. Offering insight into the diversity and progression of metropolitan architecture, different firms represented in this series discuss the influences found in their featured work. Illuminating the unique and defining characteristics of each building, the process that brought it to fruition, and the impact each structure had on the community at large, these artistic chronicles will delight lovers of architecture, travel, and urban living.

History unfolds in this in-depth study of the region's most compelling commercial architecture, including Reliant Stadium, Bayou Place, and the Texas State Capitol. The rolling hills of Austin and the tropical climates of the Gulf Coast provide an exceptional canvas for the architecture of SHW Group, Powers Brown Architecture, Ziegler Cooper Architects, and Gignac Associates.

Contributor Bio
Panache Partners, LLC, is a publishing company based in Dallas, Texas, that specializes in developing upscale coffee-table books on luxury lifestyle subjects including architecture, interior design, golf, wine, art, event planning, and travel.
The Dangerous Divide
Peril and Promise on the US-Mexico Border
Peter Eichstaedt

Summary
How do we balance border security and America's need for a vital workforce while continuing to provide access to the American dream? Since the attacks of 9/11, the United States has steadily ramped up security along the U.S.-Mexico border, transforming America's legendary Southwest into a frontier of fear. Veteran journalist Peter Eichstaedt roams this fabled region from Tucson, Arizona, to El Paso, Texas, meeting with migrants, border security advocates, and communities ravaged by cross-border crime. He rides with the border patrol and reveals the tragic situation that has evolved along the border. Eichstaedt finds that despite tens of thousands of border agents and the expenditure of billions of dollars, an estimated one million Mexicans and Central Americans continue to cross the border each year. These migrants fill jobs that have become the underpinnings of the U.S. economy. Rather than building more and better barricades, Eichstaedt argues that the United States must reform its immigration and drug laws and acknowledge that costly, counterproductive, and antiquated policies ha...

Contributor Bio
Peter Eichstaedt is a veteran journalist who has reported from locations worldwide, including Afghanistan, Albania, Somalia, the Sudans, Uganda, Kenya, eastern DR Congo, eastern Europe, and the Caucasus. He attended the University of the Americas in Mexico City and lived and worked as a journalist in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for more than twenty years. He worked most recently as the Afghanistan country director for the Institute for War and Peace Reporting in Kabul. He is the author of Above the Din of War, Consuming the Congo, Pirate State, First Kill Your Family, and If You Poison Us.

Spectacular Outdoor Living of Texas
Lush Landscapes and Stylish Spaces
Jolie Carpenter

Summary
An exquisite look at beautiful outdoor sanctuaries throughout the state, this coffee-table book features inspired designs spanning the complete spectrum of styles, from comfortably traditional to strikingly contemporary. Beyond the vivid color photographs, this detailed exploration also includes interesting captions, delightful design anecdotes, and personal introductions to Texas-based design experts-architects, landscape architects, native-plant experts, interior designers, builders, stone and tile experts, pool designers, outdoor-kitchen specialists, and more. Eloquently demonstrating myriad ways in which outdoor living spaces in Texas can be enjoyed year-round, this meticulously curated collection is appropriate for homeowners, home seekers, and anyone else seeking design inspiration, ideas, recommendations, and resources.

Contributor Bio
Jolie Carpenter is the author of Beautiful Bedrooms and Baths of Texas, Beautiful Homes of Texas, Luxury Homes of Texas, and Spectacular Weddings of Texas. She lives in Plano, Texas.
**Beautiful Bedrooms & Baths of Texas**
Jolie Carpenter

**Summary**
A brilliant collection of dreamy photography and illuminating text, this coffee-table book celebrates fine design from Dallas to Austin and throughout the state of Texas. Envisioned and executed by prominent interior designers, these unique bedrooms and baths span the complete spectrum of design styles. Transformative design elements and their uses are explained and include antiques, fine art, cabinetry, draperies, linens, furnishings, accessories, lighting, custom finishes, and textiles. For casual readers and design experts alike, this showcase is both inspiring and entertaining.

**Contributor Bio**
*Jolie Carpenter* is the author of *Beautiful Homes of Texas, Dream Homes of Texas, Luxury Homes Texas, Spectacular Homes of Texas, Spectacular Restaurants of Texas*, and *Spectacular Weddings of Texas*. She lives in Dallas.

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**Spectacular Weddings of Texas**
A Collection of Texas Weddings and Love Stories
Jolie Carpenter

**Summary**
Chronicling the stories of more than 100 bridal couples, this detailed study offers a rich glimpse into the personal lives of each bride and groom. Meaningful moments are captured in vibrant detail by the leading photographers in Texas, along with honest tales of how each couple first connected and followed the path that led them to the walk down the aisle. Editorial depictions of the event designers are dispersed among the romantic narratives, offering readers a wealth of resources for planning their own important ceremonies. Loaded with gorgeous photos of enchanting wedding locations from the panhandle to the Gulf Coast, this captivating collection of nuptial narratives will inspire and delight.

**Contributor Bio**
*Jolie Carpenter* is the author of *Beautiful Homes of Texas, Dream Homes of Texas, Spectacular Homes of Tennessee*, and *Spectacular Restaurants of Texas*. She lives in Dallas, Texas.
**Austin: Then and Now®**
William Dylan Powell

**Summary**
Extensively revised, redesigned, and rephotographed, a host of local landmarks as they once looked, alongside the same viewpoint photographed today.

Austin is known for its impressive streets and period architecture, particularly the imposing State Capitol and the view down Congress Avenue. It offers a blend of outstanding natural attractions including Barton Springs and Town Lake, as well as international venues such as the stunning new Circuit of the Americas, the home of the U.S. Grand Prix. From its beginnings as a sleepy village to its current position as the Texas state capital, Austin has witnessed incredible growth. This captivating chronicle of a fascinating city matches historic images with specially commissioned views of the same scenes as they appear today. Locations include Driskill Hotel, Sixth Street, O. Henry Museum, Pierre Bremond House, Paramount Theatre, Millet Opera House, Texas Capitol, St. Mary’s Cathedral, Lundberg Bakery, Old Travis County Courthouse, Governor’s Mansion, Old Land Office, Moonlight Towers, Custer House, University of Texas Tower, Pemberton Hei...

**Contributor Bio**
William Dylan Powell is a regular contributor to the *Houston Chronicle* and the author of *Houston Then and Now*. He lives in Houston.

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**What It Means to Be a Longhorn**
Darrell Royal, Mack Brown and Many of Texas’s Greatest Players
Bill Little, Jenna McEachern, Darrell Royal, Mack ...  

**Summary**
Taking a decade-by-decade approach to the University of Texas football tradition, this collection brings together over 40 stories from the most outstanding voices of the program. The spirit of Longhorn football is not captured by just one phrase, one season, or one particular game; instead, the student-athletes and coaches who made the magic happen over the decades blend their experiences to capture the true essence of their beloved school. Texas fans will relish the intimate stories told by the figures they have come to cherish.

**Contributor Bio**
Bill Little is an award-winning writer who has worked with the University of Texas athletics media relations office for over four decades. He is the author of six books on Texas Longhorn sports. He has written for the *Austin American-Statesman* and the Associated Press in Oklahoma City. He is a member of the Longhorn Hall of Honor and the CoSIDA Hall of Fame. Jenna Hays McEachern is a freelance writer and editor. She worked in the University of Texas sports information department as a student. She is the editor for *One Heartbeat* and *One Heartbeat II* in collaboration with Mack Brown and Bill Little. Darrell Royal is a former head football coach at the University of Texas at Austin, where he led the team to three national championships. He is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame and the university stadium was renamed in his honor. Mack Brown is the head football coach for the University of Texas at Austin. The team won a National Championship under his lead and he has been named a Big 12 Coach of the Year. They all live in Austin, Texas.
Echoes of Texas Football
The Greatest Stories Ever Told
James Street

Summary
With the popularity of Texas football across the country at its height, this account details the roots of the Longhorns' glory, their modern-day triumphs, and everything in between for the legions of Texas fans everywhere. The book goes back in time to the early years of Texas football and traces its footsteps to becoming a powerhouse on the college football scene, recounting the greatest moments in the team's lore and covering the intense rivalries with Oklahoma and Texas A&M.

Contributor Bio
Triumph Books is a leader in quality and innovation in sports publishing. In 2000, Triumph Books launched Triumph Books Entertainment, a specialty pop culture and current events imprint. James Street is a former quarterback for the University of Texas. He was undefeated as a starting quarterback and led the team to a winning Cotton Bowl Classic in 1970 and being named National Champions. He was also a pitcher for the university and played in three winning Conference Championships games. He lives in Austin, Texas.

100 Things Texas A&M Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die
Rusty Burson, Dat Nguyen

Summary
Describing the personalities, events, and facts that any and every Aggies fan should know, this work stands as a complete guide to one of the most accomplished and unique histories in college football. Highlighting the traditions that make Texas A&M football one of a kind—the 12th Man, the Aggie Bonfire, and Midnight Yell Practice—this book details the team's recent resurgence with their electrifying, Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback Johnny Manziel before taking readers back to the Aggies' three national championships and describing the larger-than-life figures who have coached at the school, including Paul "Bear" Bryant, Gene Stallings, Jackie Sherrill, R. C. Slocum, and Kevin Sumlin. More than a century of team history is distilled to highlight the essential moments, describing in an informative and lively way the personalities, games, rivalries, and plays that have come together to make Texas A&M one of college football's most beloved programs.

Contributor Bio
Rusty Burson is a former newspaper reporter and feature writer and is the current associate editor of 12th Man Magazine as well as the senior development officer for the 12th Man Foundation at Texas A&M University. He is the author of 10 books, including 100 Things Ranger Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die and What It Means to Be an Aggie. He lives in College Station, Texas. Dat Nguyen is one of the greatest linebackers in the history of the Texas A&M football program.
Dallas: Then and Now®
Ken Fitzgerald

Summary
The landmarks, architecture, street scenes, stores, businesses, schools, and fairgrounds of yesteryear are revisited to see what has been preserved or what stands in their place today
John Neely Bryan built the first cabin on the side of the Trinity River in 1841, and by 1845, when Texas was admitted to the Union, Dallas County and the town of Dallas were established, taking their name from President James K. Polk’s vice-president George Mifflin Dallas. This collection uses vintage photographs chosen from nearly a million cataloged in the Dallas Public Library from the early days of photography up until the 1960s. Sites include Oak Cliff Viaduct, Founder’s Cabin, the Old Red Courthouse, Dealey Plaza, Trinity River, Union Station, Lamar Street, Elm Street, Magnolia Petroleum building, Dallas Scottish Rite, the Adolphus Hotel, Love Field, Dallas Hall, and the State Fairgrounds.

Contributor Bio
Ken Fitzgerald works in neighboring Fort Worth and has written and photographed features for railway periodicals for 30 years. He first wrote and photographed the original Dallas: Then and Now in 2000 and has now wholly revised and rephotographed the book a decade later. He lives in Benbrook, Texas.

City by Design: Dallas
An Architectural Perspective of the Dallas, Texas Area

Summary
A pictorial showcase of the city’s leading commercial structures and the phenomenal architects who brought them to life, this artistic history contains outstanding photography of one of the leading cities in the United States. The different firms represented in this book offer insight into the diversity and progression of Dallas’s architecture by featuring their work and discussing their influences. A beautiful presentation of this southern city, this breathtaking chronicle will delight lovers of architecture, travel, and Texas.

Contributor Bio
Panache Partners, LLC, is a publishing company based in Dallas, Texas, that specializes in developing upscale coffee-table books on luxury lifestyle subjects including architecture, interior design, golf, wine, art, event planning, and travel.
**Self-Portrait of a Scoundrel**
Chauncey Holt

**Summary**
Released for the first time 16 years after his death, this startling autobiography by one of the so-called "three tramps" from the John F. Kennedy assassination reveals the details of Chauncey Marvin Holt's many claims. Much mystery and suspicion still swirls around that fateful day in November 1963, and theories abound in nearly every form of media. But one of the major mysteries revolves around the three men spotted and later arrested in Dealey Plaza. Holt’s controversial confession to being one of the three tramps has a history of its own, and in his own words he delves into his unique and wild background and life. From his United States Air Force service during Pearl Harbor to his associations with the mob and the CIA, Holt discusses his experiences and encounters in great detail. From a man who truly lived a rare and unique life, the book explains the ins and outs of his associations with Lee Harvey Oswald and the assassination in this unique retrospective of a complex and occasionally dubious life.

**Contributor Bio**
Chauncey Holt came forward claiming to be one of the "three tramps" photographed in Dealey Plaza shortly after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. At various times in his life, he claimed to be a CIA operative, an accountant for Meyer Lansky, and ostensibly provided false ID documents to Lee Harvey Oswald.

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**Me & Lee**
How I Came to Know, Love and Lose Lee Harvey Oswald
Judyth Vary Baker, Edward T. Haslam, Jim Marrs

**Summary**
Judyth Vary was once a promising science student who dreamed of finding a cure for cancer; this exposé is her account of how she strayed from a path of mainstream scholarship at the University of Florida to a life of espionage in New Orleans with Lee Harvey Oswald. In her narrative she offers extensive documentation on how she came to be a cancer expert at such a young age, the personalities who urged her to relocate to New Orleans, and what lead to her involvement in the development of a biological weapon that Oswald was to smuggle into Cuba to eliminate Fidel Castro. Details on what she knew of Kennedy's impending assassination, her conversations with Oswald as late as two days before the killing, and her belief that Oswald was a deep-cover intelligence agent who was framed for an assassination he was actually trying to prevent, are also revealed.

**Contributor Bio**
Judyth Vary Baker (née Judyth Anne Vary) is an American artist, writer and poet. Born May 15, 1943, in South Bend, Indiana, she first became known as a young prodigy in cancer research, then, later, for her assertion (in 1999) that while conducting cancer research in New Orleans, in the summer of 1963, she had a love affair with Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Edward T. Haslam is the author of Dr. Mary's Monkey. He lives in Bradenton, Florida.
**Nolan Ryan**

The Making of a Pitcher  
Rob Goldman, Reid Ryan

**Summary**

To any baseball fan, Nolan Ryan's name still conjures up images of blistering 100-mile-per-hour fastballs and knee-buckling curveballs. During his 27-year career, "The Ryan Express" was named an eight-time All-Star and amassed seven no-hitters and more than 5,700 strikeouts—more than any other pitcher in major-league history. This comprehensive biography of Nolan Ryan follows the baseball legend's journey from the start of his professional career in 1965 to his retirement in 1993. Hall of Famers, journeymen, clubhouse workers, coaches, and trainers offer their own unique take on Ryan in this book filled with never-before-told anecdotes and personal recollections and peppered with eyewitness accounts of his greatest games. In the pages of this history, readers will discover what made Nolan Ryan one of the most revered and respected athletes and citizens of his time.

**Contributor Bio**

Rob Goldman was a batboy for the California Angels during the 1970s, when he first met Nolan Ryan. He is the author of *Once They Were Angels*, a history of the Angels, and collaborated with former Angels outfielder Tim Salmon on his memoir *Always an Angel*. He lives in Thousand Oaks, California. Reid Ryan, the eldest son of Nolan Ryan, was a minor league pitcher and co-founder of Ryan-Sanders Baseball. He is currently the president of the Houston Astros. He lives in Texas.

**Ballgame!**

A Decade Covering the Texas Rangers from the Best Seat in the House  
Josh Lewin, Josh Hamilton

**Summary**

Taking baseball fans behind the microphone, into locker rooms, and through the most memorable season in Texas Rangers history, this firsthand account from announcer Josh Lewin is both insightful and entertaining. Recounting the Rangers' struggles during their pivotal 2010 season—when the Rangers team was up for sale, drugs and alcohol threatened the team's biggest star and their manager, and reaching the Fall Classic for the first time—Lewin's bird's-eye view of Rangers baseball reveals an intimate and surprising portrait of a team that went from league joke to a serious contender in the World Series. Witty and original, Josh Lewin provides an engaging but balanced account of one of baseball's elite franchises.

**Contributor Bio**

Josh Lewin is the play-by-play announcer for the Texas Rangers, and the host of a radio show in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. He is the author of *Getting in the Game: Inside Baseball's Winter Meetings* and *You Never Forget Your First: Ballplayers Recall Their Big League Debuts*. He lives in Southlake, Texas. Josh Hamilton is an outfielder for the Texas Rangers. He was named the American League Most Valuable Player after the 2010 season. He lives in North Texas.
100 Things Cowboys Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die

Ed Housewright, Tony Dorsett

Summary
With traditions, records, and Cowboys lore, this lively, detailed book explores the personalities, events, and facts every Dallas fan should know. It contains crucial information such as important dates, player nicknames, memorable moments, and outstanding achievements by singular players. This guide to all things Cowboys covers the 1972 comeback against the San Francisco 49ers, the history of the team's rivalry with the Redskins, and the Ice and Blooper Bowls.

Contributor Bio
Ed Housewright is an award-winning reporter for the Dallas Morning News. During his 24 years at the paper, he has covered local and state politics, criminal justice, health care, religion, and sports. He is the author of The Official Gold's Gym Guide to Getting Started in Bodybuilding and Winning Track and Field for Girls. Tony Dorsett is a former Dallas Cowboy running back.

If These Walls Could Talk: Dallas Cowboys

Stories from the Dallas Cowboys Sideline, Locker Room, and Press Box
Nick Eatman, Darren Woodson

Summary
Known simply as "America's Team," the Dallas Cowboys are one of football's most storied franchises and always begin each season with a legitimate chance to add another Super Bowl title to their existing five. Author and Cowboys employee Nick Eatman, through interviews with current and past players, provides fans with a one-of-a-kind, insider's look into the great moments and the lowlights throughout the team's history. Readers will hear from players, coaches, and management as they discuss their moments of greatness as well as their defeats, making If These Walls Could Talk: Dallas Cowboys a keepsake no fan will want to miss.

Contributor Bio
Nick Eatman writes for DallasCowboys.com as the featured columnist and has been with the Dallas Cowboys organization since 1999. He has written for CBSSports.com, the Associated Press, and the Dallas Morning News, and he has been a three-year TV host for the Jerry Jones Show. Darren Woodson played safety on three Super Bowl championship teams for the Cowboys. He now serves as an ESPN football analyst. They both live in Dallas, Texas.
Cowboys Triviology
Fascinating Facts from the Sidelines
Christopher Walsh

Summary
Interspersing exciting history and fun quizzes, this trivia book ranges from basic facts to challenges that will teach even the most die-hard fans a thing or two about Dallas Cowboys football. The facts presented are grouped into such categories as famous firsts, stadiums, records, quotes, postseason runs, jersey numbers, drafts/trades and, of course, the players and coaches. Entertaining and educational, the book is ideal for both solitary instruction and group game play.

Contributor Bio
Christopher Walsh has been an award-winning sportswriter since 1990 and currently covers the University of Alabama football program for the Tuscaloosa News. His recent honors include the First Amendment Award from the Associated Press Managing Editors, two Pulitzer Prize nominations, the Herby Kirby Memorial Award—the Alabama Sports Writers Association’s highest honor—and Enterprise Story of the Year from the Football Writers Association of America. He lives in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Cowboys Essential
Everything You Need to Know to Be a Real Fan!
Frank Luksa

Summary
A one-stop record containing everything Cowboys fans want to know about their favorite football team, this resource is packed with anecdotes, history, explanations of traditions, statistics, trivia, and photos.

Contributor Bio
Frank Luksa is a longtime columnist for the Dallas Morning News and the author of numerous sports books.
Tony Romo
America's Next Quarterback
Mac Engel

Summary
Depicting the reigniting of a fan base that has known such celebrated and colorful quarterbacks as Don Meredith, Roger Staubach, and Troy Aikman, this book shows that Tony Romo has emerged as next in succession of great signal-callers for the Dallas Cowboys. From growing up in Burlington, Wisconsin, and his days at Eastern Illinois University to his sudden rise to fame with the Cowboys, this is the story of America's next quarterback.

Contributor Bio
Mac Engel is an adjunct professor at the Bob Schieffer School of Journalism at TCU and a journalist who covers the Dallas Cowboys for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, where he formerly wrote about the Texas Rangers and the Dallas Stars. Notable events he has covered include the Olympics, the Stanley Cup Finals, the NBA Finals, the Super Bowl, and the American League Championship series. He has written several travel stories and reviews of movies and books.

Staubach
Portrait of the Brightest Star
Carlton Stowers, Jim Dent, Drew Pearson

Summary
Were it not so carefully documented, the remarkable football career of former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach would seem more fiction than truth. From his All-Star days as an Ohio schoolboy to All-American and Heisman Trophy-winning heights at the U.S. Naval Academy and from a four-year military stint to a decade spent leading America's Team to Super Bowl successes, the Pro Football Hall of Fame standout served as the gold standard for Sunday afternoon greatness.

Contributor Bio
Carlton Stowers, an award-winning author, has followed the Cowboys since the days when their home was Dallas' old Cotton Bowl. Stowers was a beat writer for the Dallas Morning News when Staubach played. His work has been anthologized in Best American Sports Writing...and Marcus, which he coauthored with Hall of Fame running back Marcus Allen, was a New York Times bestseller.
Playing to Win
Jerry Jones and the Dallas Cowboys
David Magee

Summary
Parlaying unrestricted access into a compelling behind-the-scenes narrative, author David Magee reveals football vignettes and insightful management morsels from arguably the most colorful and influential owner in all of professional sports. *Playing to Win* is the true story of how an Arkansas oilman named Jerry Jones was able to turn the Dallas Cowboys franchise around and become arguably the most influential owner in all of professional sports winning three Super Bowls, landing record-setting television contracts, and overseeing every detail of a brand-new $1.2 billion stadium along the way. From revolutionizing the NFL's business model to helping transform the league into the nation's most popular sport, Jones is a sports icon, and this book showcases and brings clarity to the scope of his impact.

Contributor Bio
David Magee is the author of nine nonfiction books, including *How Toyota Became #1* and *Endurance: Winning Life's Majors the Phil Mickelson Way*. He lives in Lookout Mountain, Tennessee.

100 Things Longhorns Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die
Jenna Hays McEachern

Summary
With trivia boxes, pep talks, records, and Longhorn lore, this lively, detailed book explores the personalities, events, and facts every Texas fan should know. It contains crucial information such as important dates, player nicknames, memorable moments, and outstanding achievements by singular players. This guide to all things Longhorns covers the team's first live mascot, the season they broke the NCAA record for points scored, and the player that caught every single touchdown pass thrown in the 1972 season. Now updated through the 2013 season, McEachern has provided additional chapters bringing the book up through the retirement of Mack Brown and the hiring of Charlie Strong, as well as the 2009 perfect regular season and trip to the BCS title game.

Contributor Bio
Jenna Hays McEachern has been a freelance writer and editor for 30 years. She formerly worked for the University of Texas Sports Information Department, served as an editor in the oral history department of the LBJ Library, and was a senior editor for the presidential election study series *Snapshots of the 1988 Presidential Campaign*. She is the editor of *One Heartbeat: A Philosophy of Teamwork, Life, and Leadership* and *One Heartbeat II: The Road to the National Championship*. She lives in Austin, Texas.
Art Briles
Looking Up: My Journey from Tragedy to Triumph
Nick Eatman, Robert Griffin III

Summary
Baylor head coach Art Briles is one of the most highly regarded coaches in college football, and this authorized biography delves far beyond his football success and acumen. It explains how, at the age of 20, Briles lost his parents in a tragic car accident as they were en route to one of his college games. The book relates how Briles, devastated by the loss of his role models, used the catastrophe as motivation to propel him toward the destination of his dreams. As the book elucidates in detail, Coach Briles has made a career of turning failing football programs around in both the high school and collegiate ranks. His latest accomplishments at Baylor University are also chronicled in this account of overcoming tragedy and turning personal loss into overwhelming success.

Contributor Bio
Nick Eatman writes for DallasCowboys.com as the featured columnist and has been with the Dallas Cowboys organization since 1999. He has written for CBSSports.com, the Associated Press, and the Dallas Morning News, and he has been a three-year TV host for the Jerry Jones Show. He lives in Dallas, Texas. Robert Griffin III is a former Baylor quarterback who won the Heisman Trophy after the 2011 season. He now starts for the NFL's Washington Redskins. He lives in Washington, DC.

Mavericks Stampede
Dirk Leads Dallas to the 2011 NBA Championship
Rob Mahoney

Summary
Packed with stunning color photography, this must-have championship keepsake details every game of the thrilling 2011 NBA postseason and profiles the Mavericks' leading personalities, including Dirk Nowitzki, Jason Terry, Rick Carlisle, and colorful owner Mark Cuban. Five years after dropping an emotional NBA Finals to the Heat, the Dallas Mavericks redeemed themselves in emphatic fashion in 2011, besting LeBron James and Miami in six games to claim the franchise's first championship. The Mavs were led by Nowitzki, one of the league's most underappreciated superstars, and his veteran supporting cast, including Jason Terry, Jason Kidd, and Shawn Marion. 2011 was a season to remember for Mavericks fans, and this book will be the perfect way to relive all the best moments for years to come.

Contributor Bio
Rob Mahoney is a basketball writer and blogger for "The Two Man Game," the ESPN affiliate blog for the NBA's Dallas Mavericks; the New York Times "Off the Dribble" blog; NBC Sports' "ProBasketballTalk"; "Hardwood Paroxysm," a sister site in the ESPN TrueHoop Network; and "Voice on the Floor."
Still Throwing Heat
Strikeouts, the Streets, and a Second Chance
J. R. Richard, Lew Freedman, Nolan Ryan

Summary
A flame-throwing star with the Houston Astros, J. R. Richard was at the top of his profession when he inexplicably began complaining of arm weakness in 1980. Initially scoffed at because he continued approaching 100 mph on the radar gun, everything changed when Richard collapsed while playing catch with a teammate—later diagnosed as a life-threatening stroke. The shocking development ended Richard's major league career and set off a chain of events that led to the former All-Star being homeless by the mid-1990s. This rapid rise and sudden, tragic fall define the unusual, moving, and inspirational life of a Houston icon who has endured many hardships but has become an admired figure in his adopted hometown. J. R. Richard tells that story now in his own words, including the highs and the lows of his brilliant athletic career, the difficulties that befall him on and off the field, abandonment by those he counted on after his stroke, the despair of losing everything, and his ultimate redemption and giving back to the community.

Contributor Bio
J. R. Richard is a former pitcher who played his entire career with the Houston Astros. After his baseball career was cut short by a stroke, he became involved in his local church in Houston, where he is now a minister. He also spends his time helping to raise funds to support baseball programs for children. He lives in Houston. Lew Freedman is an award-winning sportswriter and the author of 56 books, including illustrated histories of the Bears, Giants, and Steelers. He coauthored Fergie: My Life from the Cubs to Cooperstown and Juan Marichal: My Journey From the Dominican Republic to Cooperstown, with the Hall of Fame pitchers. He lives in Columbus, Indiana. Nolan Ryan is an eight-time all-star who pitched for the Mets, Angels, Astros, and Rangers. He recorded 5,714 strikeouts, the most in Major League Baseball history. He was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1999. He lives in Houston.

Houston: Then and Now®
William Dylan Powell

Summary
A host of local landmarks as they once looked alongside the same viewpoint photographed today
In 1836 revolutionaries routed the Mexican army at the Battle of San Jacinto and the nearby town took the name of the battle's victor, General Sam Houston. Since then Houston has become America's fourth largest city, and its magnificent cityscape of concrete, glass, and steel bears little resemblance to traditional Texas imagery. It was an entrepreneurial New York family who first promoted Houston's lush landscape and vast potential in the Northeast and Europe, and the town expanded from a handful of tents into a place of more than 10,000 residents by 1900. Oil was discovered nearby in 1901 and from then on Houston never looked back. Sites include City Hall, Carnegie Library, Houston Courthouse, Merchants and Manufacturers Building, Allen's Landing, Houston Chronicle, Main and Preston, Sam Houston Hotel, USS Texas, San Jacinto Monument, Congress Avenue, Houston Water Works, Hermann Building, Texas Capitol Building, Majestic Metro, Old Cotton Exchange, Gulf Building, Moorish Federal Buildin...

Contributor Bio
William Dylan Powell is a regular contributor to the Houston Chronicle and the author of Austin Then and Now. He lives in Houston.
**Lightnin' Hopkins**

*His Life and Blues*

Alan Govenar

**Summary**

By the time of his death in 1982, Sam "Lightnin'" Hopkins was likely the most recorded blues artist in history. This brilliant new biography--the first book ever written about him--illuminates the many contradictions of the man and his myth.

Born in 1912 to a poor sharecropping family in the cotton country between Dallas and Houston, Hopkins left home when he was only eight years old with a guitar his brother had given him. He made his living however he could, sticking to the open road, playing the blues, and taking odd jobs when money was short. This biography delves into Hopkins's early years, exploring the myths surrounding his meetings with Blind Lemon Jefferson and Texas Alexander, his time on a chain gang, his relationships with women, and his lifelong appetite for gambling and drinking.

Hopkins didn't begin recording until 1946, when he was dubbed "Lightnin'" during his first session, and he soon joined Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker on the national R & B charts. But by the time he was "rediscovered" by Mack McCormick and Sam Charters in 1959, his po...

**Contributor Bio**

Alan Govenar is a writer, photographer, and filmmaker. He is the author of numerous books, including *Texas Blues: The Rise of a Contemporary Sound*; *Extraordinary Ordinary People: Five American Masters of Traditional Arts*; *Stompin' at the Savoy: The Story of Norma Miller*; *Untold Glory: African Americans in Pursuit of Freedom, Opportunity and Achievement*; and *Osceola: Memories of a Sharecropper's Daughter*. The off-Broadway premiere of his musical *Blind Lemon Blues*, cocreated with Akin Babatunde, received rave reviews in the *New York Times* and *Variety*.

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**San Antonio: Then and Now®**

Paula Allen

**Summary**

The city's impressive history is illustrated using vintage images from the past teamed up with the same view today.

San Antonio has a history stretching back almost three centuries. It was established as a Spanish military garrison in 1718, the home of Mission San Antonio de Valero, later renamed the Alamo. During the Mexican War of Independence, Americans fought alongside Mexicans, and at the war's end Texas became a Mexican state. With more than 3,000 American settlers moving into the area, peace didn't last for long. The Texan settlers fought their own war of independence between 1835 and 1836, culminating in the historic last stand at the Alamo. By 1879, Fort Sam Houston was established by the U.S. Army. Throughout the last century San Antonio vied with Galveston, Dallas, and Houston as the largest city in Texas. Today the city is known for its medical and biotechnology industries and is the hub for many multinational companies. Its reputation as a center for business was enhanced when San Antonio hosted the World's Fair in 1968; however, the tourist trade will always be a signif...

**Contributor Bio**

Paula Allen has written a column on local and Texas history for the *San Antonio Express-News* since 1992. She has led history walks through downtown San Antonio for a community education program and is coauthor of a forthcoming book on touring the city's historical sites. She has also served as a member of the advisory committee for the "San Antonio Remembered" series produced by public television station KLRN and is a frequent guest speaker on local history. She lives in San Antonio.