Southwestern American Literature

Volume 39
Number 1
Fall 2013
Editor’s Note
William Jensen  5  More Than Dirt and Cowboys

Nonfiction
Joe W. Specht  7  Caviar & Chicken Gizzards: Larry McMurtry’s Friendship with Susan Sontag

William Cunningham  14  “Others Come In”: Blood Meridian and the Imperial Travel Narrative

Tyler Nickl  26  “Good Work Properly Done”: Irony, Labor, and the Evasion of Class in Edward Abbey

Monica Montelongo Flores  42  Placing La Llorona as Curandera: Leslie Marmon Silko’s Ceremony and Chicana Cultural Theory

Fiction
Kali Fajardo-Anstine  55  Sugar Babies

Jim Finley  68  Thirteen Miles of Dirt Road

Allegra Hyde  75  Ephemera

Poetry
Jeffrey Alfier  86  Cochise County July

Zachary Perron  87  Broken Cowboys

Gila Mon  88  Life Direct

Dave Nielsen  90  July on Ephraim Mountain
In Memoriam
Mark Busby 91 Remembering John Graves

Book Reviews
Dave Oliphant 93 In A Kingdom of Birds by Ken Fontenot
Gene Fowler 97 On The Edge: Water, Immigration, and Politics in the Southwest by Char Miller
Elvin Holt 98 Contrary People: A Novel by Carolyn Osborn
Octavio Quintanilla 101 Natural Takeover of Small Things by Tim Z. Hernandez
Francis X. Galán 104 Native and Spanish New Worlds: Sixteenth-Century Entradas in the American Southwest and Southeast edited by Clay Mathers, Jeffrey M. Mitchem, and Charles M. Haecker
Colin Pope 106 A Tongue in the Mouth of the Dying by Laurrie Ann Guerrero
Jason Rocha 108 Road to Nowhere and Other Stories From the Southwest edited by D. Seth Horton and Brett Garcia Myhren
Chris Margrave 109 Falling in Love with Other Prisoners by Gwendolyn Zepeda

Contributors 112
Jeffrey Alfier has work appearing or forthcoming in Iron Horse Literary Review, Poetry Ireland Review, South Carolina Review, and Tulane Review. His first full-length book of poems, The Wolf Yearling, is forthcoming from Pecan Grove Press. He is founder and co-editor of San Pedro River Review.

Will Cunningham is currently pursuing his PhD in Literature at the University of Kansas. While his specific research interests generally lie in the intersection of African American and Southern Literature, he often finds himself engaging a much broader field of 20th century American literature.

Kali Fajardo-Anstine earned her MFA from the University of Wyoming. Her fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in Bellevue Literary Review, Kartika Review, and The Idaho Review. She is the 2013/2014 Hub City Writers Project writer-in-residence. Kali is from Denver, Colorado.

Jim Finley came of age during the 50s in flat, dust-blown Stonewall County, Texas. I loved and hated, suffered and benefited, from the fate of time and place. Such dictates so much the inescapable mark of experience. Retiring after 45 years in college classrooms, I now have more time for the blank page, to which I am drawn like a bat to a cave. Like the bat, I have such a distinctive homeland.
Allegra Hyde is currently pursuing an MFA in fiction at Arizona State University, where she was recently awarded the Swarthout Prize in fiction. Her stories and essays have appeared in Bellevue Literary Review, Grist Journal, Hobart, and elsewhere. She serves as prose editor for Hayden’s Ferry Review.

Gila Mon is a high school teacher in Payson, Arizona. As an undergraduate at Arizona State University, he began writing poetry and has participated in several public readings throughout the state. His poems have appeared in Comstock Review, Astropoetica, Blazevox, Hoot Review, and several regional publications. He maintains a blog of works-in-progress at dreaminginsatellite.blogspot.com.

Monica Montelongo Flores is a doctoral student in the department of English at Texas Tech University. She specializes in the fields of Chicana/o Literature, Literature of the U.S. Southwest and Cultural Studies. Her current research focuses on the intersections between Chicana Cultural Theory and American Literature and Film.

Tyler Nickl is a PhD Student in Literature and Environment at the University of Nevada-Reno and a former book review fellow for Western American Literature. His research focuses on the influences of work and class identity upon cultural production in the North American West.
**Dave Nielsen** is from Salt Lake City. He received a master’s degree in English from Brigham Young University and is currently a PhD student at the University of Cincinnati. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in *Parnassus, Ploughshares, The Southern Review,* and other magazines.

**Zachary Perron** was born in the Catskill Mountains in New York State in 1982. I am currently the Executive Sous Chef at Bishop’s Lodge Ranch, Resort and Spa in Santa Fe because food is one of the only things I really like. I am married to Brae Lea Williams and we have two sons, Sebastien and Octavian.

**Joe W. Specht** is the former director of the Jay-Rollins Library at McMurry University. He is the author of *The Women There Don’t Treat You Mean: Abilene in Song* (State House Press, 2006) and *As Falls Wichita, So Falls Wichita Falls … in Song* (Prairie Dog Blues Publishing, 2013) and co-editor of *The Roots of Texas Music* (Texas A&M University Press, 2003) and *Abilene Stories, From Then to Now* (Abilene Christian University Press, 2013).