

## *Obituaries*

### SANDRA LYNN MYRES

Sandra Lynn Myres, who died on October 16, 1991, at the age of fifty-nine, combined teaching, research, and administration in a distinguished career. She taught and published in the fields of Western American, Latin American, Southwestern, and Texas history at the University of Texas at Arlington, where she was a professor of history, for twenty-eight years. Sandra intended to be a doctor when she left the small East Texas town of Silsbee. One of the brightest students in her high school class, she headed to what was then called Rice Institute (now University) in Houston. An early marriage led her to different areas of the country, but she continued to pursue her goal of a career in medicine at the Washington University School of Nursing in St. Louis, North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas), and, finally, Texas Tech University, graduating with a B.A. in biology in 1957. She was elected to Phi Alpha Theta and Phi Beta Kappa.

Her introduction to some excellent history teachers such as Ernest Wallace and David Vigness at Texas Tech convinced her to pursue a degree in history, and she received the M.A. degree from Tech in 1960. She taught at St. Christopher's School in Lubbock and Schreiner Institute in Kerrville, Texas (1960-61), and showed her penchant for research and publication with *S. D. Myres: Saddlemaker* (Kerrville, 1961). She joined the faculty at Arlington State University (now the University of Texas at Arlington) in 1963 and entered the doctoral program at nearby Texas Christian University the following year, graduating with a Ph.D. in Latin American and Southwestern history in 1967. Her dissertation was

published as *The Ranch in Spanish Texas, 1690-1800* (El Paso, 1969).

Sandra's publications soon established her reputation as a specialist in Western American history and women's history. She wrote or edited a total of six books and more than two hundred articles in her thirty-year career. Her most acclaimed work, *Westering Women and the Frontier Experience, 1800-1915* (Albuquerque, 1982), became a History Book Club selection. She also published *Cavalry Wife: The Diary of Eveline M. Alexander, 1866-1867* (College Station, Texas, 1977), and *Ho for California! Women's Overland Diaries from the Huntington Library* (San Marino, California, 1980). She was working on two books at the time of her death, 'Plainswoman: The Canadian and United States Experience' and 'Victoria's Daughters: Nineteenth Century Frontierwomen in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States West.' The subjects of her articles and lectures ranged from women's experiences on various frontiers and United States foreign relations to western clothing and the use of artifacts in the teaching of history. Sandra's career at the University of Texas at Arlington came at a critical time, as the school was growing from an agricultural and technical college to a full-fledged university. She undertook numerous tasks in the Department of History and helped establish the Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures, now in their thirtieth year, serving as chair of that committee from 1972 until 1974 and again in 1984-85. Realizing that the university needed good historical archives, she served on the Labor Archives Committee (1974-75) and the Jenkins Garrett Collection Advisory Committee (1974 until her death), working with fellow AAS member Garrett and his wife Virginia in their generous philanthropy to the university. She was instrumental in establishing the Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography and served as its first director.

Sandra also participated in many scholarly organizations outside the university. She established the Texas Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy, the state-based National Endow-

ment for the Humanities program, and served as its first executive director (1973-75). She was elected to the Western History Association's Executive Council (1978-81) and presidency (1987-88), and she served as president of Westerners International (1984-86). She was elected a Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association in 1985 and served as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* and the *New Handbook of Texas* and as a member of the association's Executive Committee (1985-89).

She was elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society on October 21, 1987.

Ron Tyler

### DON EDWARD FEHRENBACHER

Deeply engaged and eagerly taking notes, he was a fixture in the microfilm room until the last year of his life. To me, his much junior colleague in the English department at Stanford University, the Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Don E. Fehrenbacher was an ever-inspiring example of scholarly diligence. My wife, Renee, who worked in the Stanford Library, remembers him 'as the kindest man I have ever known.' Many others share that opinion.

After David Potter's death, Fehrenbacher completed and edited Potter's book on the Civil War, *The Impending Crisis, 1848-1861*, a book that won a Pulitzer Prize in 1997. Fehrenbacher's own manuscript, 'The Slaveholding Republic: An Account of the United States Government's Relation to Slavery,' was almost complete at his death on December 13, 1997, at the age of seventy-seven.

Perhaps the greatest Lincoln scholar of his generation, Fehrenbacher, who held the William Robertson Coe Chair in History and American Studies, was the author of a number of books on Lincoln, including *Prelude to Greatness: Lincoln in the 1850's*. Additionally, his 1979 Pulitzer Prize-winning *Dred Scott*

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