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Mary Jo O'Rear ,William Mary Jo O'Rear Miguel □ngel Gonz□lez–Quiroga Peter Julius Weber Michael L. Sankey John L. Hill Steve Lambert Deborah Paredez Carl R. Ernst Adam C. Mednick Milo Kearney

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after a devastating hurricane in 1919 the people of corpus christi faced the stark reality of their vulnerability it was clear that something had to be done but the mere will to take precautionary measures did not necessarily lead the way instead two decades would pass before an effective solution was in place mary jo o rear author of storm over the bay returns to tell the story of a city s long and often frustrating path to protecting itself bulwark against the bay reveals the struggle to construct a seawall was not merely an engineering challenge it was also bound up with the growing popularity of the ku klux klan local aversion to roman catholicism the emergence of the league of united latin american citizens new efforts on behalf of african american equality the impact of the great depression support for franklin roosevelt and reactions to the new deal a case study of a community wrestling with itself even as it races with the clock bulwark against the bay adds to our understanding of urban history boardroom and backroom politics and the often harsh realities of geography and climate

before independence from mexico in 1836 the catholic faith was the only religion settlers in texas known as texians could legally practice to acquire land in texas then a part of mexico known as coahuila y tejas one had to be a member of the roman catholic church or agree to convert to catholicism although a few protestant church buildings were erected before texas s independence in 1836 most were erected after 1836 because of mexico s strict laws prohibiting and often severe punishment for practicing any faith other than catholicism the few protestant

church buildings that were erected prior to texas independence were usually erected along the margins of texas in the more remote regions of north and east texas distancing themselves from mexico s center of government in san antonio the first protestant church established in texas that has been in continuous service was organized by the reverend milton estill in 1833 as the cumberland presbyterian church in old shiloh a small community located about four miles north of clarksville in 1848 the shiloh cumberland presbyterian congregation joined with the presbyterian congregation in clarksville to become the first presbyterian church clarksville the first presbyterian congregation in clarksville is recognized as the oldest protestant church in continuous service in the state of texas after texians won their independence in 1836 religious congregations began to meet openly and to build houses of worship most of these early church buildings were poorly built and did not survive the ravages of time eventually stronger buildings were erected but even then with open fireplaces and wood burning stoves providing heat and candles or kerosene lanterns providing the primary source of light church buildings were often destroyed by accidental fires in addition with time congregations often outgrew their vintage church buildings or could no longer afford the high cost of maintaining the older outdated buildings as a result congregations abandoned them to erect larger and often more elaborate edifices once abandoned the old church buildings were razed or if left standing rapidly deteriorated over the past twelve years my wife and i have visited and photographed almost one thousand historic churches in texas photographing these historic church buildings and learning about the pioneers that often at great risk founded and maintained them has been a project of love visiting these historic churches and meeting the people that maintain them today has been inspirational

mary jo o rear rounds out her coastal bend trilogy with a deep and engaging look at the prehistory and history of the texas barrier islands in barrier to the bays o rear captures the deep time of the islands mustang padre and san jos□ the bays aransas corpus christi copano redfish and nueces and aransas pass from the earliest human settlements to the twentieth century o rear explores the complex interplay between people and economies struggling to survive in a region dominated by indifferent forces of nature barrier to the bays opens with the natural formation and development of the barrier isles and the arrival of native americans spanish castaways french explorers and catholic missionaries european settlements on the mainland eventually led to rich commercial development of the area and its bounty as ranching fishing and transportation took hold by the early twentieth century the people of the coastal bend began wrestling with a new drive to create deep water harbors along the coastline in the face of the ever present hurricane threat o rear shows that by world war ii the region had settled into a kind of practicality as tourists and traders took their place among the denizens of the islands and bays in addition to the stories of familiar historical figures barrier to the bays stresses the importance of technology in the settlement and development of the region nothing could have been achieved among the barriers and bays of the coastal bend without the right tools o rear underscores the importance of properly designed sailing vessels and the centrality of navigation technology as an integral part of the barrier isle story

the historical record of the rio grande valley through much of the nineteenth century reveals well

documented violence fueled by racial hatred national rivalries lack of governmental authority competition for resources and an international border that offered refuge to lawless men less noted is the region's other everyday reality one based on coexistence and cooperation among mexicans anglo americans and the native americans african americans and europeans who also inhabited the borderlands war and peace on the rio grande frontier 1830 1880 is a history of these parallel worlds focusing on a border that gave rise not only to violent conflict but also cooperation and economic and social advancement meeting here are the anglo americans who came to the border region to trade spread christianity and settle mexicans seeking opportunity in el norte native americans who raided american and mexican settlements alike for plunder and captives and europeans who crisscrossed the borderlands seeking new futures in a fluid frontier space historian miguel \square ngel gonz \square lez quiroga draws on national archives letters consular records periodicals and a host of other sources to give voice to borderlanders perspectives as he weaves their many varied stories into one sweeping narrative the tale he tells is one of economic connections and territorial disputes of refugees and bounty hunters speculation and stakeholding smuggling and theft and other activities in which economic considerations often carried more weight than racial prejudice spanning the anglo settlement of texas in the 1830s the texas revolution the republic of texas the us mexican war various indian wars the us civil war the french intervention into mexico and the final subjugation of borderlands indians by the combined forces of the us and mexican armies this is a magisterial work that forever alters complicates and enriches borderlands history published in association with the william p clements center for southwest studies at southern methodist university in dallas texas

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an ethnography on the significance of selena's afterlife for latino identity

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