

Continued from p.2001

seemed to promise "a world of sunshine and progress, of new gizmos and old fruit trees." It wasn't that simple, of course, especially once his parents decided to divorce when Jeff, eldest of three, was 19. Family dysfunction rings strange chords in Sunnyvale: one of his mother's first jobs is at Apple, and her career rises as his father loses control of her family's landscaping business. Jeff works briefly for Apple himself, but he finds it boring and takes off for Lake Tahoe, where he works for casinos and wastes time. Brother Jerry tries for rock-and-roll stardom but crashes and burns; sister Jill, the youngest, has problems in school and rejects every man her mom dates. Silicon Valley's adrenaline-charged rise is a background presence in this glimpse of those who caught that wave and those left stranded in its wake. —*Mary Carroll*

**Gragg, Rod.** *Covered with Glory: The 26th North Carolina Infantry at Gettysburg.* Aug. 2000. 320p. index. illus. HarperCollins, \$27.50 (0-06-017445-5). DDC: 973.7.

Regimental histories can have limited appeal, but Gragg's chronicle of a North Carolina regiment virtually wiped out at Gettysburg is an exception. The author's fine rendering of the 26th North Carolina exploits there distinguishes his work from the regimental herd. In addition, he narrates well this formation's distinctiveness among Confederate units. Raised by one of the state's leading politicians, it was, by the patched-clothes standard of Lee's army, exceptionally well-drilled and well-equipped. Subsequently led by a 21-year-old slave owner (*Boy Colonel of the Confederacy: The Life and Times of Henry King Burgwyn, Jr.* [reprint 1998]), the 26th's soldiers were mostly hardscrabble farmers, few of them slave owners. After recounting the regiment's baptismal battles, Gragg forwards fate to 1 July 1863. Despite the reader's knowledge of impending doom, Gragg so dramatically modulates the 26th's assaults that one almost ducks in the armchair to avoid the shot and shell coming his or her way. A model for popularizing the regimental history genre. —*Gilbert Taylor*

**Holmes, Richard.** *The Western Front.* July 2000. 256p. index. illus. TV Books; dist. by HarperCollins, \$26 (1-57500-147-0).

DDC: 940.4

Distinguished military historian Holmes' brief introduction to the prime slaughterhouse of World War I is a good thing in a small package. Intended for the intelligent lay reader, the book packs into some 250 pages a summary of the major events on the western front; the various controversies about tactics, technology, generalship, etc.; a worthy selection of illustrations; and a bibliography sufficient to carry readers considerably further in their studies. Holmes seems a sworn foe of mythmaking and scapegoating, and he explains the horrendous

**Hodgson, Godfrey.** *The Gentleman from New York: Daniel Patrick Moynihan.* History Aug. 2000. 464p. index. illus. Houghton, \$35 (0-395-86042-3). DDC: 973.92.



more thoughtful elected officials of the late twentieth century. Others will probably produce more critical biographies, but, for now, Hodgson has supplied a fairly balanced overview. —*Mary Carroll*

While the New York Senate race preoccupies the media, journalist Hodgson directs attention to the man both candidates hope to succeed. Hodgson described the late twentieth-century rise of conservatism in *The World Turned Rightside Up* (1996); he judges Moynihan one of the few people who "have lived and felt the liberal impulse, and at the same time understood the emotions behind the new conservatism." A friend of the senator and his wife for nearly 40 years, Hodgson observes a notable consistency in a career in which Moynihan was often viewed as a traitor by liberals or conservatives or both. As an appointee of New York governor Averell Harriman and in the administrations of Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford, in academia and in the Senate, Moynihan mixed skepticism about the value of social science in defining public policy with a solid "faith in the capacity, and the duty, of government to make society better." A cold war liberal, more of a regular Democrat than a reformer, Moynihan will no doubt be remembered as one of the smarter,

dous difficulties faced by all parties without justifying their horrendous context. Since the western front was arguably the fundamental political-military experience for a generation of French, British, and German men, it is hard to underestimate the value of so accessible a study of it to both military and general history collections. —*Roland Green*

**YAL:** *Dramatic, detailed history of the devastating World War I battleground; for research and personal reading.* HR.

**Kasson, Joy S.** *Buffalo Bill's Wild West: Celebrity, Memory, and Popular History.* July 2000. 320p. index. illus. Hill & Wang, \$26 (0-8090-3243-0). DDC: 978.

Kasson's discussion of how William F. Cody and his publicists crafted the long-haired showman's image says much about the American public's attachment to celebrity and acceptance of fictionalized history. Cody's Wild West Show began barnstorming while memories of the Old West were green and survivors of manifest destiny were still alive. From the beginning, the show was a nostalgic reenactment of a time "never more to return." Cody "helped to create the modern notion of celebrity" by maintaining his image so well that it is "challenging to evaluate anything written or said about him." Kasson intends "not to distinguish the 'real' from the 'fictional' Buffalo Bill, but rather to examine [Cody's] subtle interweaving of fact, fiction, hype, and audience desire." So doing, she examines still-vital popular culture trends, such as the insertion of fictional portrayals into the national consciousness of history. Deep for fun reading and fun for deep reading, the book notes the changes Cody wrought on America's psyche without ever deserting his life as a great showman. Buffalo Bill would be proud. —*Mike Tribby*

**Keane, John.** *Vaclav Havel: A Political Tragedy in Six Acts.* July 2000. 325p. index. illus. Basic, \$27.50 (0-465-03912-X).

DDC: 943.7105.

Keane, author of *Tom Paine: A Political Life* (1995) and editor of Havel's *Power of the Powerless* (reprint 1990), argues the Czech playwright-politician has taught the world "more about the powerful and the powerless, power-grabbing and power-sharing, than virtually any other of his twentieth-century rivals." But Keane views his study as a tragedy because "Havel suffered the misfortune of being born into the twentieth century," with earth-shaking changes—from the fall of the Hapsburg empire through Nazism and Communism to the effort to build democratic institutions. Rather than an inclusive biography, Keane offers a series of *tableaux vivants*, capturing key moments in Havel's often dramatic life but emphasizing the impact of external forces he could not control. Although Keane celebrates Havel's contribution to the analysis of power and to his nation's post-Communist recovery, he makes clear Havel's political limitations as well. Where interest in Eastern European democracy is strong, this postmodern assessment of Havel's career should circulate. —*Mary Carroll*

**Lafreniere, Bree.** *Music through the Dark: A Tale of Survival in Cambodia.* July 2000. 176p. illus. Univ. of Hawaii, \$36 (0-8248-2227-7); paper, \$17.95 (0-8248-2266-8). DDC: 931.

Lafreniere retells the story of Daran Kravanh, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge reign in Cambodia. Written in Daran's voice, with photographs and historical information added by Lafreniere, the book recounts the terrorism of the Khmer Rouge, and the political dogma that stripped Cambodians of their possessions, families, and lives. Daran was born into a musically talented